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Photo courtesy of Congressman Dana Rohrabacher
Design by Richie Backman

HeyYou!

» ANONYMOUS

Pole Position

ROB AUL

You were the idiot speeding southbound down the 101 freeway during fast-moving Memorial Day traffic. You were probably moving at about 100 mph, expertly weaving in and out of lanes. Pole Position style. Thing is: Your sports car was emitting a thick, white smoke that almost immediately fogged up all four lanes of traffic to the point that visibility was reduced to almost nothing, as if a giant cloud had just descended upon the freeway. This went on for an unbelievably long five minutes or so, until a CHP vehicle swooped in behind you, yet still you continued to speed along before finally noticing him and pulling over. Hopefully, you got a nasty ticket and a ruined car engine out of the deal. Nice work, fool.

HEY, YOU! Send anonymous thanks, confessions or accusations—changing or deleting the names of the guilty and innocent—to "Hey, You!" c/o *OC Weekly*, 18475 Bandilier Circle, Fountain Valley, CA 92708, or email us at letters@ocweekly.com.

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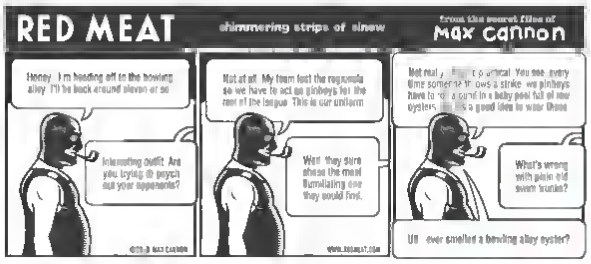
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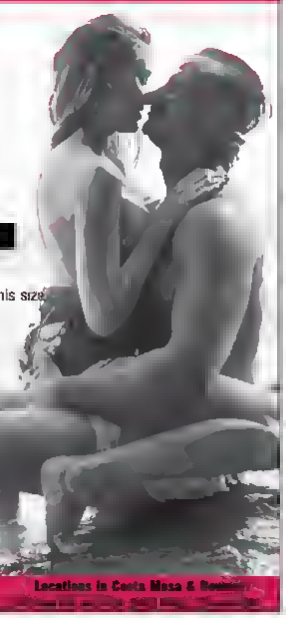

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The Late Spring of Our Discontent

Orange Countians usher in summer with protests

a clockwork ORANGE

»MATT COKER

June 21 is the first day of summer, but the heat is already rising thanks to Orange County residents motivated by injustice, gun violence, immigration reform, the current occupant of the White House and burning needs to demonstrate outdoors. Elsewhere in this issue (or on this website), my colleague Gabriel San Román has a report on U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont) rallying the morning of June 2 with Disney Resort union workers outside the River Arena in Anaheim, where they are pushing for a $15-per-hour living-wage ordinance.

The morning before, a handful of activists gathered in front of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) office in downtown Santa Ana for a rally and press conference. The aim was to draw attention to the sad plight of Udoka Nweke, a 29-year-old who faces, at best, 14 years in prison and, at worst, death in his native Nigeria. Why? Because Nweke is gay.

He fled his home country in the hopes of finding freedom in that shining city on the hill known as the United States. His travels took him through South and Central America as well as Mexico before he arrived in 2016 at the border in San Ysidro, surrendered to American authorities and pleaded for asylum.

But for the past 15 months, Nweke has been detained at the Adelanto Detention Center, which the private Geo Group operates for ICE. The federal agency confirms that Nweke transferred into their custody in 2016 as a result of an order by a Nigerian judge who has ruled the refugee must be immediately returned to that country. The case is pending appeal.

While awaiting an uncertain fate, Nweke has suffered fear, isolation and hopelessness, which has led him to attempt suicide multiple times, according to activists, who say the migrant has repeatedly been denied bond, asylum and parole requests by the U.S. government.

And so, just before LGBTQ Pride Month began, activists from that community joined representatives of other civil-, human- and immigration-rights organizations in front of ICE's office at 34 Civic Center Plaza in Santa Ana for a "Free Udoka" demonstration.

"Udoka is continuing to dwindle because of the trauma he has endured," Zack Mohamed of the Black Alliance for Just Immigration told the gathered. "All Udoka did was try to give himself up for asylum." After noting that people of color have always played a part in Pride Month, he led a chant that would return often at the protest: "Free Udoka!"

Zerihoun Yilma of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights said, "All Udoka is asking for is an opportunity to start from scratch."

And Kris Hayashi, executive director of the Transgender Law Center, noted that the migrant needs to be released so he may receive mental-health treatment. "Just one week ago, a transgender woman died in ICE custody," Hayashi said. "Like Udoka, she faced violence and sought asylum in the U.S. ... She died less than a month after presenting herself at the border. ... This abusive treatment of LGBTQ migrants fleeing violence is cruel, and it must end."

Jan Meslin of Freedom for Immigrants recalled a meeting she had with a "distraught" Nweke in February. "He told me he thought he was going to die," she said. "He said many are found dead in their cells.

"When I visited Udoka in February and looked into his eyes, I could see the desperation," Meslin continued. "He keeps losing hope with every step. He finds himself among all these people who do not speak English. English is his first language, so that makes him more isolated."

A theme throughout the protest was the money the Geo Group is making off detainees such as Nweke. Pointing to the building to the side of her, Meslin said, "Now in Orange County, we have almost 1,000 people detained by ICE, and here it is Orange County that is making money because [the facility] is run by the OC sheriff."

She called for an immediate end to all such detentions, noting that in the 1980s, there were about 30 people subjected to immigration holds. "There are more than 40,000 now," Meslin said. "We shouldn't even have it; it's all about money."

COURTESY OF FREEDOM FOR IMMIGRANTS

DON'T MESS WITH MESLIN

Meslin was just out of detention before the "Free Udoka" rally, having been among 20 "moral witnesses" who were arrested May 29 in Sacramento.

As part of the Poor People's Campaign, which on Mother's Day launched six weeks of nonviolent actions at state capitals throughout the country as well as in Washington, D.C., a rally was held on the steps of the California Capitol to protest "the war economy and gun violence."

Costa Mesa's Meslin, Long Beach's Pat Alviso and 18 others followed their rally on the steps with the disruption of the state Assembly while it was in session. "Activists yelled out demands such as 'Stop giving tax breaks to military companies,'" reports the organizers. "They also showed pictures of innocent victims and called out their names, ages and how they died."

The moral witnesses were then arrested, held in Sacramento County Jail and released the next morning, although they each face misdemeanors.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"We as a community want to let council members know that convicted Sheriff [Joe] Arpaio is a horrible symbol of hate."

—Natalie Estrada, lead organizer of No Hate Yorba Linda, as quoted in Abigail Marut's OC Weekly *online report, "Anti-Arpaio Protesters Outnumber Ex-Sheriff's Supporters in Yorba Linda." Former Maricopa County Sheriff Arpaio made an appearance at the Yorba Linda Community Center at the invitation of Phil Liberatore, a Republican who was seeking the 39th Congressional District seat abandoned by Ed Royce (R-Fullerton).*

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The Bern vs. the Mouse

U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders lends support to living wage campaign by Disney Resort workers

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

BRIAN FEINZIMER

Hundreds of Disney Resort workers donned in the colorful shirts of their respective unions lined up outside the River Arena in Anaheim hours before a June 2 scheduled appearance by United States Senator Bernie Sanders. Inside the venue, hurried organizers spoke over headsets, preparing for the rally and panel discussion beginning at 10 a.m. Workers from the Coalition of Resort Labor Unions, who co-sponsored the event alongside Good Jobs Nation and are pushing for a $15 Anaheim Resort living-wage ordinance, anxiously waited in the green room for their time onstage with Sanders.

When doors finally opened, streams of people took to the purple seats of the small church arena. Event organizers kept the mood jubilant. A mock Mickey Mouse in full uniform posed for pictures and even held a #StopDisneyPoverty sign for the cameras. Union musicians played perfectly executed cover songs including Pharrell's "Happy" while a man tossed yellow United Food and Commercial Workers Local 324 shirts into the crowd.

But 10 minutes before the rally's start time, workers and Sanderistas alike were anxious to hear from the man of the hour. "Bernie Sanders," the crowd chanted, followed by a baseball clap. "I want to Feel the Bern!" another shouted. Applause broke out as Disney workers took to their seats onstage. Then, the 76-year-old Independent senator from Vermont appeared, strutting down an aisle to a hero's welcome. "The struggle that you are waging here in Anaheim is not just for you," Sanders said from the podium. "It is a struggle for millions of workers all across this country who are sick and tired of working longer hours for lower wages!"

Sanders quickly honed in on the Walt Disney Co. and its CEO, Bob Iger, in his stump speech. He referenced ABC's recent cancellation of *Roseanne* over Roseanne Barr's racist tweets and noted he respected Iger's decision, despite the cost to his company. "What I say to Mr. Iger right now [is] 'You have the opportunity now to do something else that is enormously important,'" Sanders said. "You have the opportunity to help lead corporate America away from the greed which is destroying this country, and you have the opportunity to create a company that works for all of its workers.'"

Before the senator's speech, a Disneyland Resort spokeswoman had handed out an official press statement that referenced the Walt Disney Co.'s recently announced wage-hike proposal for some but not all union workers. "We currently are negotiating one of the largest union contracts at the Disneyland Resort, with an offer that increases starting wages of 36 percent over three years, paying $15 an hour by 2020—two years ahead of California's minimum wage," the statement read. "While Mr. Sanders continues to criticize Disney to keep himself in the headlines, we continue to support our cast members through investments in wages and education."

But at the event's panel discussion, Disney Resort workers had a different story to tell, with Orange County Employees Association general manager Jennifer Beuthin serving as moderator.

Glynndana Shevlin, a food-and-beverage concierge at the high-end Disney E-Ticket Club, told the crowd what her work life is like as she closes in on 30 years with the company. "I go hungry most days," she said. "I work in the most beautiful room in the Adventure Tower at the Disneyland Hotel. I feed these guests the most amazing gourmet food you've ever seen, and at the end of the day, it gets thrown in a recycle bin."

A Unite HERE Local 11 shop steward, Shevlin's wages also leave her struggling to keep a steady roof over her head, she's been evicted numerous times and is currently looking for a new place to stay on a $15.70-per-hour salary. Sanders offered Shevlin a consoling touch on the shoulder while delivering his snarkiest and perhaps most heartfelt remarks of the event. "Disneyland is all about fantasy," he said. "Let me break the news for the people watching: Ducks don't talk! Mice really don't talk. That's fantasy; this is reality."

The hourlong rally came to an end soon after Sanders left the building to chants of "Ber-nie! Ber-nie!," but casual conversations carried on. "What Disney workers are fighting for is a great example of what can be exported to the federal level," said Paco Fabián, an organizer with Good Jobs Nation. "What they can do is create momentum and show people workers standing together and pushing for a common goal can create results."

Belinda Hanzman, a housekeeper at the Animal Kingdom Lodge at Walt Disney World for the past seven years, traveled from Orlando, Florida, to be at the rally. "We have the same struggle," she said. "We are very grateful for Sanders' support. Any person who comes and supports us, we are very grateful for."

Back in the green room, Rebekah Pederson, a Disney hair-and-makeup artist, returned from being onstage with Sanders to congratulations and applause. "It's definitely been quite the experience," Pederson said. "I'm very proud that I got to be a part of it, of course." She belongs to International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 706, one of the unions that doesn't stand to benefit from the publicized pay increases offered by Disney to a four-union Master Services Council. (The council criticized the proposal, saying it translated to union concessions on the eve of state minimum-wage hikes and no real pay increase for experienced workers already making $15 per hour.) But if Anaheim voters have the opportunity to pass the living-wage ordinance for taxpayer-subsidized companies at the resort, Pederson will see her salary significantly increase to $15 per hour next year and, with annual boosts, $18 per hour by 2022. "They're trying to break the unity," Pederson said.

With peak tourist season arriving at the Disneyland Resort, the Mouse may also have a historic campaign against its low wages in full swing by summertime, whether or not contracts are agreed upon. It's also a season in which worker signins for Disneyland this year are largely blocked out, especially on weekends—or at least they were until a day before the Sanders rally. Pederson pulled up an app on her cellphone before looking at the June calendar for sign-ins with astonishment. "Oh, my gosh!" she said. "Now that they're getting called on it, magically, I have weekend days that I can go in June!"

Maybe Sanders needs to come to Anaheim more often?

Before heading to another day at Disneyland making $11.68 per hour, Pederson endorsed the idea. "Oh, I think so," she said. "He's definitely made an impact, and I like it."

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'An Absolute Disgrace'

Bernie Sanders speaks with the *Weekly* about Disneyland and the fight for fair wages

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

FEELING THE BERN

BRIAN FEINZIMER

Senator Bernie Sanders gave the cause of Disney Resort workers a boost June 2 when he spoke before a packed audience at the River Arena in Anaheim (see related story, page 10). The democratic socialist waved his finger while denouncing income inequality. He also listened attentively to the stories of Disney Resort workers assembled for a panel and offered commentary. (Good Jobs Nation live-streamed the rally and roundtable discussion.) Sanders' appearance made national headlines and further dramatized the fight to lift workers out of poverty by supporting a local $15 living-wage ordinance for taxpayer-subsidized companies in the Anaheim Resort.

But not all were enthused with the "Feel the Bern" fun. The Disneyland Resort implied Sanders tough-talked the Mouse to stay relevant. The Republican Party of Orange County sent out a panicked email alert ahead of the June 5 primary election that bemoaned Sanders' "parachute" presence in the county. GOP Chairman Fred Whitaker even called the senator "crazy" while decrying his speaking engagement as one that'd offer an "out-of-touch, socialist platform to Orange County."

After the rally, the *Weekly* spoke with Sanders about Disneyland and the fight for fair wages while he was en route to Carson, where he rallied exploited port truck drivers.

OC WEEKLY *How did you first become aware of the poverty Disney Resort workers struggle with, and what compelled you to visit Anaheim to speak with them directly?*

BERNIE SANDERS Some of the workers and unions were in touch with my office. I see my job as trying to do everything I can to make sure working people in this country receive decent wages and decent benefits. And I will tell you what I heard from the workers up there on the stage with me was absolutely shocking. A profitable corporation like Disney that can afford to pay its CEO a compensation package of $400 million should not be having employees that work seven days a week, who are homeless or do not have food to eat. That is an absolute disgrace, and Disney has got to change its ways.

The Anaheim Chamber of Commerce and other local business interests are busy sounding the alarm on what they say Anaheim's living-wage ordinance would do if passed. They claim investors will be driven away from a lucrative tourist economy. What say you?

Based off what I heard in Anaheim, this is not a lucrative economy for working people. It may be a lucrative economy for the large corporations who have their businesses here. In an area where the cost of living is very high, as it is in Anaheim, you have working people who cannot afford housing, cannot afford food [and] cannot afford transportation. Those wages have got to go up. Look, the big business interests always tell us that it's great to give tax breaks to the rich, [that] it's great when CEOs receive exuberant compensation packages but it's the worst thing in the world when workers get decent wages. I think very few people believe that nonsense.

The story of Disneyland since the 1984 strike is one of stagnant, even declining wages while the corporation's profits have skyrocketed and the price of living in surrounding areas has risen. To me, that mirrors the story of the destruction of the middle class in the United States.

That's right, Gabriel. You got it. When you heard that woman who was seated right next to me talk about how she has worked with Disney for 30 years, financially, today, she's worse than she was 30 years [ago]. And your point is exactly right. Wages or benefits have not kept up with inflation. Many of the workers there are doing worse than workers did 30 years ago, while this corporation last year made $9 billion in profit. This is an exact manifestation of the decline of the American middle class.

I know you had some choice words for Bob Iger. The Disneyland Resort released a statement insinuating that your criticisms of the corporation and visit to Anaheim were done to keep you in the headlines rather than out of a general concern for its workers. What's your response?

I think that's obviously nonsense. If they want to make sure that I don't come back to Anaheim again, they can simply do the right thing, and that is pay their workers a living wage and provide decent healthcare benefits to their employees so they won't see me back here. But instead of attacking me, they should listen. I know that Disney is very much into media. I would hope very much that somebody gives them a tape of the workers who spoke. They don't have to worry about Bernie Sanders. They ought to worry about those five or six workers who talked about being homeless, talked about working seven days a week, talked about not having enough time off to sleep, [and] talked about being hungry. Those are the people they should be paying attention to.

Prior to your visit to Anaheim, the Disneyland Resort did something interesting. In negotiations with four unions, they offered a third of its overall workforce a $15 minimum raise wage by 2020. We don't know all the terms of that offer, but doesn't that signal at the surface level that this is a corporation that could've always afforded to give its workers a decent wage?

Look, I respond to that by saying it is clear that virtually all of the employees here in Disneyland are underpaid with inadequate benefits. I strongly support the ballot item, and I also strongly support the union efforts to sit down and negotiate a good contract with Disney. My hope is that Disney will sit down at the table with the unions and come up with a contract that benefits all of the employees here.

The bottom line is you have an immensely profitable corporation that gets tax breaks from Anaheim, that recently got $1.5 billion in tax breaks from the federal government, that pays its CEO over a four-year period $400 million in compensation and made $9 billion in profits last year. This is a corporation that can afford to pay every worker in Disney a living wage, and I certainly hope they will do that.

GSANROMAN@OCWEEKLY.COM

OC WEEKLY Bulletin

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Upcoming Events

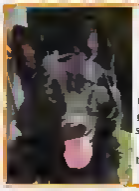
OC Night Market June 15-17

SUMMER IS COMING. Mark yo' calendars and tag yo' friends for the biggest party of the summer with food, games, art, shopping and performances at OC Fair & Event Center! Bring out the squad to our FIFTH SEASON to take pics of food for the 'gram, find the perfect gift from merch and crafts vendors or commission a special piece by a local artist at our Art Walk.
Friday & Saturday 4PM to 12AM | Sunday 4PM to 11PM

MainPlace Mall's Party on the Patio: Dads & Grads

MainPlace Mall invites you to celebrate your Dads & Grads in style, with a craft brew in hand at our upcoming Party on the Patio event on June 9 between 2pm-5pm!

Messages



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Featured This Week

sipandlookpretty • I want my toes in the sand, and a #cocktail in hand // El Dragon at @ola_mexican_kitchenHuntington Beach, CA #sipandlookpretty

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Table for #MeToo?

Ousted labor chief re-emerges as partner at lauded chef's new DTSA restaurant

BY MATT COKER

One of the hottest chefs in Southern California and a disgraced former Orange County labor leader have teamed up for a restaurant that recently opened in downtown Santa Ana.

Danny Godinez, whom the *Weekly* has labeled a "daring chef," is known for the lauded Maestro in Pasadena, Anepalco in Orange and El Mercado Modern Cuisine in Santa Ana. At the latter, a booth was frequently darkened by Julio Perez, who was fired earlier this year as the executive director of the Orange County Labor Federation (OCLF), the local AFL-CIO labor council.

Allegations against Perez surfaced publicly in October after OC Young Democrats chairwoman Danielle Serbin shared a statement with the media claiming that two powerful men in her political party and from Orange County had been outed as sexual harassers via Facebook as part of the #MeToo campaign. Serbin later confirmed Perez was one of those men.

An internal OCLF investigation into sexual harassment allegations by multiple women against Perez followed. After a Jan. 25 presentation that was based on the probe, union delegates voted unanimously to oust Perez as their leader.

Corporation papers filed in March with the California Secretary of State show that Godinez is CEO and Perez is the secretary of Santo Broders Group, which owns the new restaurant Cevichería Nais at 224 E. Third St., Santa Ana. Essentially across the street from El Mercado, which is on North Spurgeon Street, and a few doors down from the Yost Theater space, the location has been a Mexican restaurant before, including Diego's Rock-n-Roll Bar & Eats, which closed in November.

No longer affiliated with El Mercado, Godinez's new venture is a seafood restaurant and bar. Among those who attended the May 25 soft opening of Cevichería Nais was Anaheim City Councilman Jose F. Moreno, who suffered blowback on social media because of his perceived support, by extension, of Perez's involvement in the eatery. "Cevichería Nais *en* Downtown Santa Ana! Open '*casi casi*' or 'soft opening,'" Moreno captioned a photo of cocktails on one of the new restaurant's tables. "Look out for grand opening soon!"

But that was followed by dozens and dozens of negative comments, including this from Santa Ana community activist Tish Leon. "It's sick that Julio Perez is part owner, the sexual predator . . . Surprised that you support him and not the women he abused."

Santa Ana City Councilman David Benavides did himself no favors by including this about Cevichería Nais in the comments with Moreno's Facebook post: "I look forward to the big grand opening and presenting a certificate of recognition from the city of Santa Ana."

"Really, David?" responded attorney Bruce Bauer, a former Santa Ana planning commissioner and unsuccessful local school-board candidate.

Community activist Perla Dionicio was blunter: "Are you fucking kidding me, David Benavides?"

But Benavides doubled down, replying directly to Bauer, "Why would we not recognize a new business that is going 'all in' to open up in our city? If this restaurant is believing in Santa Ana, why [would] we not want to support them and hope that they thrive? This is a new business like any other; the issues that others are bringing up have nothing to do with this restaurant. I'm surprised that you would take a position to seemingly question whether a new business should be recognized for their investment in [Downtown Santa Ana]."

DUSTIN AMES

JOHN GILHOOLEY

If the councilman believed that would put a period on the discussion, he miscalculated. After more comments about Perez's recent disgrace, Bauer called for more women in positions of power locally. "We really only have two female leaders in the city who look after these issues (Mayor Pro Tem Michele Martinez and School Board President Valerie Amezcua) despite the fact that women comprise the majority of residents in the city of Santa Ana," Bauer wrote.

That brought the following from writer Sarah Rafael Garcia of Santa Ana's Red Salmon Arts literary project. "Bruce Bauer, it would be great if we had Michele Martinez & Valerie Amezcua's support on this . . . but in the past, I haven't heard any public comments from them regarding Julio Perez."

Amezcua, who is the Santa Ana Unified School District's board president, begged to differ, responding in the same comments section, "Michele Martinez and I did speak up, and we posted on social media. [Please check] with me first if ever you have questions. Thank you, Bruce Bauer, for your vote of confidence."

Added Martinez in the same thread, "It's very disturbing that we tolerate this behavior. Thank you all for speaking up. Truth to power . . . "

Martinez, who hopes to be elected mayor of Santa Ana in November, later expanded on the subject, with a link to a previous *Weekly* story about Perez's ouster from OCLF. "When you acquiesce to injustice, you are contributing to it. We must have the courage to speak out! I don't support this new business in the city or Mr. Perez for his actions toward harassment toward women in the workplace. We must speak truth to power! Enough is enough. . . . We cannot turn a blind eye. Shame on those elected [officials] who wish to celebrate this behavior!"

There were multiple calls on Yelp for a boycott of Cevichería Nais because of Perez's involvement. However, all those negative comments have since been scrubbed from the site.

MCOKER@OCWEEKLY.COM

30 for 30

» MATT COKER

"The patriots have won!"

That was not the Bizarro World result of the last Super Bowl, but rather the bizarro congressman of Huntington Beach Representative Dana Rohrabacher (R-Putin's Silk Skivvies), making a verbal victory lap the night of June 5.

At the time he spoke, he led a roster of everyone in the 48th Congressional District white pages—Do they still have white pages?—gunning for the seat he has held since he campaigned for term limits 30 years ago.

BOB AUL

Speaking of 30, Rohrabacher had 30 percent of the primary vote as he spoke, far ahead of Democrat Hans Keirstead at 18 percent, Republican Scott Baugh at 17 percent and Democrat Harley Rouda at 16 percent.

Only the top two vote-getters advance to November's general election, and though it was obvious the incumbent will be one of them, Rohrabacher spoke as if he'd already been re-elected. "How many times do we have to hear there is a blue wave that is going to knock us down?" he asked the boisterous crowd of supporters at Skosh Monahan's in Costa Mesa. "Well, the tide is turning against these left-wing fanatics who are in charge of our government."

Um ... what? White House. Republican. Senate. Republican. House of Representatives. Republican. Supreme Court: Conservative. Cable-news leader. In the bag for all of 'em.

Perhaps Rohrabacher meant "our government" as in California's, which does swing left, although one wag on the teevee did point out that a Republican (John Cox) making the runoff against Democrat Gavin Newsom in the governor's race may help incumbent Orange County Republicans hold onto their House seats. His reasoning was that had Newsom faced another Democrat in November, Republicans voters would have likely sat out the election, which would have been a big boost to Democrats on down-ticket races. Given that Newsom runs ads that propped up San Diego businessman Cox's profile because the lieutenant governor would rather square off against a Republican than another Democrat in a solid blue state, we may end up having him to blame if Rohrabacher also wins in November.

As KCAL/9 dipped into Sloshad Monahan's election night, Rohrabacher was blabbering something about "leftist billionaires and the news media on their side. We are taking back America right here."

But that may be presumptuous. Former Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky told KCAL that Rohrabacher "is vulnerable" because "he is an incumbent" with "a lot of baggage" and "who is only polling at 30 percent."

So, whoever finished second may be on the wave that ultimately knocks out the Surfin' Congressman Cowabunga!

MCOKER@OCWEEKLY.COM

Political Fútbol

» STEVE LOWERY

United States vs. the World (Cup)

U.S. UPDATE: The U.S. Men's National Team will not be in the upcoming World Cup because it couldn't handle the juggernaut that is Trinidad and Tobago, and by handle, we don't mean *beat* T&T—as it is known to friends—but *tie*. All they had to do was *tie* the Caribbean nation of 1.3 million people and one conjunction, and they couldn't do it. Some people pin the team's failures to its previous coach, German-born Jurgen Klinsmann, who, players complained, was cold and lacking in empathy and human feeling, which would seem to fit his background as he's lived in both Huntington and Newport Beach.

WORLD CUP 2018 UPDATE: The problem is that the U.S. is not used to having to play other people's games. If we're not good at something, we just make up something of our own to dominate. Cricket becomes baseball, rugby becomes football, *Pop Idol* becomes the Electoral College. Problem is, we haven't invented anything that's even close to as popular as soccer. The world loves it, which is why the World Cup and *not* the Olympics is the biggest event in the world. But we're not part of the Paris Accords, and that's worked out just fine. Oh, wait.

WORLD CUP 2026 UPDATE: The U.S. has been looking like a sure bet to get into the 2026 World Cup. Not because we'd be any better at soccer, but simply because we have the infrastructure to host the World Cup, and if you host, you're automatically in. Basically, we're the unpopular kid who lets the rest of the world come over and drink our parents' booze so we can kind of hang out with them before Belgium hands us our ass. All we have to do is make sure to not call other countries shitholes or other people rapists or animals. Yeah, this should work out just fine. Oh, wait ...

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LIVE MUSIC *WEEKLY SCHEDULE*

WEDNESDAY 6/6
Francois Deen 8pm-Close *Shebeen Bar*

THURSDAY 6/7
Andrew Bloom 8-Close *Shebeen Bar*
Mando Cordova 7pm-Close *DBN Lounge*

FRIDAY 6/8
Tijuana Dogs 9pm-Close *Shebeen Bar*
DJ Audissey 9pm-Close *DBN Lounge*

SATURDAY 6/9
Past Action Heroes 9pm-Close *Shebeen Bar*
DJ BB Guns 9pm-Close *DBN Lounge*

SUNDAY 6/10
Jazz Brunch w/Mando & Friends
1pm- 3pm *Shebeen Bar*
Einstein Brown 5pm-7:30pm *Shebeen Bar*
Lasterfari 7:30pm-Close *Shebeen Bar*
Francois Deen 6pm-Close *DBN Lounge*

WEDNESDAY 6/13
Venson Quarles 8pm-Close *Shebeen Bar*

THURSDAY 6/14
Andrew Bloom 8pm-Close *Shebeen Bar*
Mando Cordova 7pm-Close *DBN Lounge*

FRIDAY 6/15
The Trip 9pm-Close *Shebeen Bar*
DJ Blunk 9pm-Close *DBN Lounge*

SATURDAY 6/16
Family Style 9PM-Close *Shebeen Bar*
DJ BB Guns 9pm-Close *DBN Lounge*

SUNDAY 6/17
Jazz Brunch w/Mex Bennett
1pm- 3pm *Shebeen Bar*
Einstein Brown 5pm-7:30pm *Shebeen Bar*
Common Sense 7:30pm-Close *Shebeen Bar*
Francois Deen 6pm-Close *DBN Lounge*

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Sunday, June 17

AUSTRALIAN BEE GEES
Saturday, June 23

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Thursday, July 12

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fri/06/08

[THEATER]

It Takes Two

Greater Tuna

Playwrighting team Jaston Williams and Joe Sears are not only the original creators, but also, since its inception in the early '80s, the stars of *Greater Tuna*. In this play (co-written with Ed Howard), the two thespians play *all* of the characters of the fictional town of Tuna, which is referred to as the third-smallest town in Texas. Drawing from their own hometown upbringings in different parts of Texas, they created a colorful cast of characters to satirize conservative, rural American morals and societal standards. Written in a time when Ronald Reagan and the Republican right ruled the White House, *Greater Tuna* was wildly successful in its premiere and has spawned the uproarious sequels *A Tuna Christmas*, *Red, White & Tuna*, and *Tuna Does Vegas*.

Greater Tuna at STAGEStheatre, 400 E. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, (714) 525.4484, stagesoc.org. 8 p.m. Through June 24. $20-$22. —AIMEE MURILLO

[FILM]

THE BEE'S KNEES

The Great Gatsby

If you're anything like us, you're already planning 2019's New Year's Eve party, which will officially take us into the (roaring?) '20s and, of course, will be Gatsby everything. This week, however, the Source in Buena Park screens Baz Luhrmann's visually stunning 2013 flick as part of its Outdoor Movie series. If you haven't yet seen the film, it's nearly two and a half hours of obscenely glamorous costuming, head-spinning party scenes and Leonardo DiCaprio in a tux drinking champagne out of a fancy coupe. And what could be better than that, old sport?

MORE ONLINE
OCWEEKLY.COM

The Great Gatsby at the Source OC, 6340 Beach Blvd., Buena Park, (714) 521-8858, www.thesourceoc.com. 7 p.m. Free. —ERIN DEWITT

sat/06/09

[COMEDY]

MEAN GIRL
Lisa Lampanelli

It seems like every year Lisa Lampanelli pops up in Orange County for a run of standup shows. If that continues to be the case, sign us up. Known for her mostly good-natured brand of insult comedy, often aimed at a nearby audience member, the 56-year-old last filmed an hourlong special, *Back to the Drawing Board*, in 2015, so we're betting on some new material not only at this stop at the City National Grove, but on the small screen as well. It would probably be best to avoid the front row at this show, or else you could be the next victim of comedy's "Loveable Queen of Mean."

Lisa Lampanelli at City National Grove of Anaheim, 2200 E. Katella Ave., Anaheim, (714) 712-2700, www.citynationalgroveofanaheim.com. 8 p.m. $46. —WYOMING REYNOLDS

[EVENTS]

Use Your Instincts

Star Wars Day

Star Wars: The Last Jedi came out on DVD March 27, and *Solo: A Star Wars Story* hit theaters on May 25. So why is *Star Wars* Day on June 9? Beats us. But we recommend you go anyway to meet R2-D2, make paper jawas, explore a galaxy far, far away via virtual reality, learn Jedi combat basics (complete with a lightsaber demonstration); and take green-screen selfies with Jedis, Darth Vader and Stormtroopers. A *Last Jedi* screening caps the day. Most activities are for ages 5 and up, though you have to be at least 13 for some; all kids need parent waivers.

Star Wars Day at Fullerton Public Library, 353 W. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, (714) 738-6327, www.fullertonlibrary.org. 10 a.m. Free. —MATT COKER

DAN DION

sun/06/10

[PETS]

Sunday PUP-day!

Top Dog BOW-WOW Brunch

Every second Sunday of the month, Top Dog "Barkery" and boutique—a pet care and grooming spot, as well as purveyor of tasty dog treats, chewy snacks and pastries—hosts a delightful brunch that includes the four-legged members of your family. This month, in addition to bakery samples, it's offering special "woofles" to pups, while parents and humans get to imbibe complimentary hot coffee and doughnuts. Donations from this event go directly toward rescue organizations. Treat your furry pals to a day that'll have them wagging their tongues and tails.

Top Dog BOW-WOW Brunch at Top Dog at Pacific City, 21010 Pacific Coast Hwy., Huntington Beach, (714) 960-3647, www.gopacificcity.com/top-dog. 10 a.m. Free. —AIMEE MURILLO

[CONCERT]

Believe Your Ears

Indigo State

During their month-long residency, Indigo State have brought to the Continental Room a melange of magnetic, jazzy and experimental rock offerings. This week, joining the Yorba Linda trio are Memory Den's synthesized, sci-fi-esque overtures and melodic instrumentals and Shinobi Ghost's hip-hop-centric jazz sounds. With this trippy, otherwordly rock lineup, expect dance-worthy grooves and relaxing vibes that will reverberate through your ears all week!

Indigo State with Memory Den and Shinobi Ghost at the Continental Room, 115 W. Santa Fe Ave., Fullerton, www.facebook.com/ContinentalRoom. 9 p.m. Free. 21+. —AIMEE MURILLO

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mon/06/11

[FILM]

He Drinks Your Milkshake

There Will Be Blood

As part of a six-film tribute to Paul Thomas Anderson, the Frida is hosting several screenings of the Academy Award-winning *There Will Be Blood*. Based loosely on Upton Sinclair's novel *Oil!*, the epic tale follows the journey and exploits of Daniel Plainview, played by Daniel Day-Lewis. The film serves as a metaphor for the pursuit of the American Dream by showing Plainview's humble beginnings as an oil prospector through his development into a cutthroat businessman. In the hands of Anderson, the tale takes on operatic dimensions and is as beautiful as it is ugly to behold.

There Will Be Blood at the Frida Cinema, 305 E. Fourth St., Santa Ana, (714) 285-9422, thefridacinema.org. 2:30, 5:30 & 8:30 p.m.; also Tues. & June 16. $7-$10. —SCOTT FEINBLATT

tue/06/12

[MUSEUM EXHIBITS]

Tet Talk

'Voyage to Vietnam'

The Bowers invites families to learn how to properly celebrate Tet, the Vietnamese Lunar New Year Festival, which arrives in February. One stop in this national touring exhibition is the Bowers' Kidseum, which will share the basics of this "Feast of the First Morning of the First Day" through exhibits exploring food, costumes, fireworks, dance and more. With extended summer hours and three months to take this "Voyage to Vietnam" educational and experiential tour, there's plenty of time to assemble the traditional bamboo New Year's tree, apricot or peach blossoms, and other artful decorations, as well as learn to say "*Chuc Mung Nam Moi*" before the New Year.

"Voyage to Vietnam. Celebrating the Tet Festival" at Bowers Museum Kidseum, 1802 N. Main St., Santa Ana, (714) 480-1520, www.bowers.org. Call for hours. Through Aug. 19. $10. —ANDREW TONKOVICH

wed/06/13

[DANCE]

To Donald, With Love

Donald McKayle: Bittersweet Farewell

The recent passing of modern dance legend Donald McKayle left many reeling, especially since at the age of 87 and wheelchair bound, McKayle was still mentoring students at UC Irvine, where he served as professor emeritus of dance. To honor the trailblazing giant, dancers from the Etude Ensemble (which McKayle founded in 1995) will perform a trio of his works from his six-decade career, followed by a memorial service, video presentation and reception. Witness McKayle's dance protégés' heartfelt tribute to the iconic choreographer/director and learn more about the ways in which his approach to teaching and choreography showcased a passion that was larger than life.

Donald McKayle: Bittersweet Farewell at Claire Trevor Theatre, 4002 Mesa Rd., Irvine, (949) 824-2787, www.arts.uci.edu. 7 p.m., also Thurs., June 14. Free; RSVP required. —AIMEE MURILLO

[FILM]

HONK HONK!

Marx Brothers Double Feature

Regency South Coast Village kicks off its zany Marx Brothers double feature with the comedy legends' second film, *Animal Crackers*. Released in 1930 and based on their Broadway musical, *Animal Crackers* contains some of the most famous of the Marxes' one-liners, including Groucho's adventurous Captain Spaulding explaining to Margaret Dumont how he shot an elephant in his pajamas ("how he got in my pajamas, I don't know"). But stay seated. *Horse Feathers* is up next and promises to raise the comedy roof even higher when university president Groucho hires an unsavory crew of thugs to help the school win the big football game. Don't miss this riotous evening!

Marx Brothers Double Feature at Regency South Coast Village, 1561 W. Sunflower Ave., Santa Ana, (714) 557-5701, regencymovies.com. 7:30 p.m. $8.50. —SR DAVIES

thu/06/14

LAURA LYNN PETHICK

[CONCERT]

REVERB REBELS

Allah-Las

Allah-Las started—on NickWaterhouse's highly regarded PRES label, actually—as a moody and even menacing *Shutdown* '66-style garage band, but across six years and three full-lengths, they've developed a sophisticated, even scholarly sensibility that goes beyond unheralded '60s psych and rock to find inspiration and information in art, design, literature and more. Call it a crash-course in an off-center kind of American cultural history with their globally beloved Reverberation Radio station as an introductory seminar. And that makes the Allah-Las' live shows a display of practical application, at which visionaries from '66, '56, '76, '96 and more all might recognize kindred spirits taking their sound and (more important) their philosophy into the future.

Allah-Las at Marty's On Newport, 14401 Newport Ave., Tustin, (714) 544-1995, www.martysonnewport.com. 8 p.m. $30. 21+. —CHRIS ZIEGLER

[COMEDY]

Grape Therapy

Off the Vine Live! With Kaitlyn Bristowe

If you're not a fan of the long-running matchmaking reality show *The Bachelor*, the name Kaitlyn Bristowe won't ring a bell. The onetime contestant for Chris Soules' love sparked attention for herself with her dry, irreverent sense of humor, then was on the other end of the romantic drama when she became the lead in *The Bachelorette*. Since finding her Prince Charming, Bristowe hasn't downplayed her wit; she started her own television personality and music career, including the humorous podcast *Off the Vine*. This live recording session will have Bristowe and the Lady Gang dish on all sorts of taboo, gossip, jokes and more, all paired with a great bottle of wine.

Off the Vine Live! With Kaitlyn Bristowe at the Irvine Improv, 527 Spectrum Center Dr., Irvine, (949) 854-5455, irvine.improv.com. 8 p.m. $30-$80. 18+. —AIMEE MURILLO

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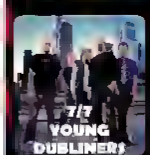
6/14 CASEY ABRAMS

6/15 JACK RUSSELL'S GREAT WHITE

6/16 AL JARDINE

6/22 GARY NOEY


7/7 YOUNG DUBLINERS

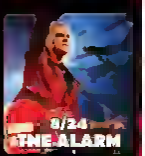
7/22 THE FIXX

6/8 BEATLES vs STONES - A MUSICAL SHOWDOWN
6/9 THE PETTY BREAKERS (TOM PETTY TRIBUTE)
6/10 MARTY MCINTOSH
6/14 CASEY ABRAMS
6/15 JACK RUSSELL'S GREAT WHITE
6/16 AL JARDINE - A PERFORMER FROM CALIFORNIA FROM THE VERY FIRST SONG WRITE A FAMOUS MEMBER OF THE BEACH BOYS
6/17 DOUG STARKS PRESENTS COMEDY NIGHT
6/21 NANCY WILSON OF HEART
6/22 GARY HOEY
6/23 LOS RIOS ROCK SCHOOL
6/27 TED NUGENT
6/28 TED NUGENT
8/29 SERPENTINE FIRE (EARTH, WIND AND FIRE TRIBUTE)
8/30 LIVE DEAD & RIDERS '89 CELEBRATING MUSIC OF GRATEFUL DEAD & NEW ORDERS OF THE PURPLE SAGE FAVORITE ERA
7/6 GUN BOAT KINGS
7/7 YOUNG DUBLINERS
7/10 ERIC JOHNSON
7/13 COCO MONTOYA
7/14 GUITAR LEGEND DICK DALE
7/15 RITA COOLIDGE
7/19 LITTLE RIVER BAND
7/20 SUPER DIAMOND (NEIL DIAMOND TRIBUTE)
7/21 MICK ADAMS & THE STONES (STONES TRIBUTE)
7/22 THE FIXX
7/26 PATTY SMYTH & SCANDAL
7/27 HENRY KAPONO
8/3 VENICE
8/4 ABBAFAB (ABBA TRIBUTE)
8/5 RONNIE SPECTOR & THE RONETTES
8/9 BUDDY GUY
8/10 GEOFF TATE'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY TO OPERATION: MINDCRIME
8/17 THREE DOG NIGHT
8/16 IRON BUTTERFLY
8/24 THE ALARM
8/25 HONK
6/27 AMANDA SHIRES
8/30 MIDGE URE AND PAUL YOUNG
9/1 WILD CHILD (DOORS TRIBUTE)

7/26 PATTY SMYTH & SCANDAL

8/9 BUDDY GUY

8/10 GEOFF TATE'S OPERATION MINDCRIME


8/24 THE ALARM

8/27 AMANDA SHIRES

8/30 MIDGE URE & PAUL YOUNG

UPCOMING SHOWS

9/7 JUSTIN HAYWARD
9/15 DESPERADO (EAGLES TRIBUTE)
9/16 PHIL VASSAR
9/20 RICHIE KOTZEN, VINNIE MOORE, AND GUS G
9/21 HERMAN'S HERMITS FEAT. PETER NOONE
9/22 HERMAN'S HERMITS FEAT. PETER NOONE
10/12 JD SOUTHER
10/14 THE DUKE ROBILLARD BAND
10/19 BASIA
10/25 TAB BENOIT'S WHISKEY BAYOU REVUE
10/26 FIVE FOR FIGHTING W/STRING QUARTET
10/31 DINGO BINGO DANCE PARTY
11/3 AMBROSIA
11/11 RICKIE LEE JONES
11/15 THE KINGSTON TRIO
12/2 DWEEZIL ZAPPA
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@OCWMKTGDIRECTOR

Graze's Anatomy

Channeling *Bob's Burgers*, Graze does a great black garlic burger

BY EDWIN GO EI

The first thing I thought of when I saw that Graze—the new 4th Street Market vendor—had a burger with black garlic in it was *Bob's Burgers*. If you're a fan of the show, as I am, you'll remember that black garlic was what our greasy but earnest burger maker used as a secret ingredient during a cooking competition in a pivotal Season 5 episode.

It was Bob Belcher's shining moment as a burger auteur, but also black garlic's. Before that episode, I'd only thought of black garlic as a niche ingredient. I'd seen it dissolved into oil and drizzled into bowls of ramen. Occasionally, it would show up on high-end menus. But for something that was developed and used for thousands of years in Korea, it still had a long way to go before becoming as familiar to Americans as kimchi.

That episode, I would argue, gave black garlic the mainstream cred it deserved. And the way it was presented—on a hamburger, acting as a viable alternative to ketchup—made me wonder when a real-life Belcher might step up and do it.

Then Graze came along.

As it turns out, Graze is even more than I hoped for. It doesn't just use black garlic on one burger; it celebrates the ingredient like no other restaurant I've seen do so before. It not only offers a black garlic fried egg and black garlic fries, but it also "ferments" its own black garlic through a 192-hour process.

Traditionally, black garlic is made by storing fresh bulbs in a humidity-controlled environment set to 140 degrees to 170 degrees over a period of three or four months. The end result is a tar-like substance with the stickiness of a date and a taste that's nothing like garlic. The enzymes that give regular garlic its sharpness break down, and the Maillard reaction—the process that gives roast meat its flavor—uncovers the umami treasure trove previously hidden in its depths.

When I finally came face-to-face with Graze's black garlic burger (which is actually called "Umami"), it was drowning in it. Even before I picked it up, the jet-black relish dribbled off the sides. But upon tasting it, I realized there's no such thing as too much black garlic. I lapped up every bit that fell out. And on the burger, it was kismet. It was not only the fulfillment of having a cartoon food that I've always dreamt of eating, but it was also the first time I witnessed black garlic's full potential.

I liken it to caramelized onions cooked with a splash of balsamic, a dash of Worcestershire and maybe a hint of red wine. But those descriptions are still inadequate. There's something else I'm not accounting for, something I can't put my finger on. The one thing I'm certain of is that it catapulted the umami quotient of this burger to heights far higher than Umami Burger's own signature sandwich.

I should probably mention the burger had other toppings, including cave-aged Gruyere, bacon jam, garlic mushrooms, crispy parmesan, roasted tomato and truffle aioli. Graze stacked the umami deck on this burger, but compared to the black garlic, those other ingredients sank into non-speaking roles. All I tasted in the burger was all I needed to: the seared patty; the thick, brioche-like bun; and the black garlic—all melding into a greasy mass that left me satisfied the rest of the afternoon.

The patty itself is of the smashed variety, in which balls of ground beef—here blended from short rib, brisket and chuck—are pressed flat by a spatula on the griddle to maximize the build-up of that coveted, crispy, brown outer crust. The last time I had a patty like this was at the chain called Freddy's, whose closest location is Victorville. Graze's patties are much crunchier and thicker by at least two times. The buns are also better—not so much fluffy as they are sturdy, enough to wick up the juice and grease without turning into mush.

There are, of course, other burgers at Graze, starting with a base model that has arugula, tomato, sauce and caramelized onions so liquidy they're soup. And it's a great burger, with particularly good house-cured pickles that complement the meat rather than overpower it. But somehow, when you've had the black garlic burger, everything after seems anticlimactic. Even the fries, which are freshly cut from actual potatoes—and thus nearly indistinguishable from In-N-Out's—beg to be smothered in black garlic.

I'm not even sure if Graze's owners have watched that episode, which was appropriately titled "Best Burger," or any other of *Bob's Burgers*, but I can tell you that compared to others I've had this year, Graze's burger is exactly that.

GRAZE

201 E. Fourth St., Santa Ana, (949) 735-2389, grazehandcraftedburgers.com. Open Sun.-Thurs., 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Fri.-Sat., 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Burgers $7.95-$10.95. No alcohol.

WHAT THE ALE

» ROBERT FLORES

Heaven in SJC

THE BREWHOUSE

31896 Plaza Dr., Ste D3, San Juan Capistrano, (949) 481-6181, thebrewhousesjc.com.

South Orange County has established itself as a mecca for award-winning brews, and now there's a brew-pub spot lighting a rotating menu of local and hard-to-find craft beers. On a recent visit to the BrewHouse SJC, I found myself wondering, as though I were in the movie *Field of Dreams*, "Is this Heaven?"

Owners Andrew and Kim Reed have created a comfortable setting, with plenty of tables and couches. In addition to 30 craft beers on tap, there's a selection of bottles and cans for customers on the go. Food trucks come by, and there are a few in-house items, including panini, pretzels and Mangia Cheeses. My bartender, John Bentley Reyes, was a super knowledgeable chap who kept everyone's pint full and the conversation flowing.

I had Funkwerks' saison (6.8 percent ABV), which won a gold medal at the 2017 Great American Beer Fest; it's a complex, slightly fruity saison as perfect as any Pomona's Sanctum Brewing Co. is doing great things, and its Deus Vult Dubbel (9.2 percent ABV) is a knockout, with rich notes of plum and juicy grapes and a subtle spice on the back end. Sip and enjoy! Wild Barrel Brewing in San Marcos is known for its sours and barrel-aged brews, but I went with the well-balanced Hipster Latte milk stout (6.2 percent ABV), which uses beans from Mostra Coffee. Although it's one of the most prolific jaws among craft-beer collaborations, the coffee didn't overpower the other tasting notes, which were subtly sweet; the bitterness of the dark chocolate went well with the toasty malts.

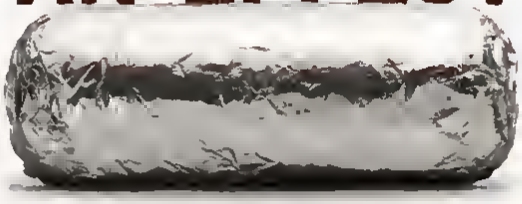
Ritual Brewing's Art of Dankness (9.2 percent ABV) uses Summit, Columbus, Centennial, Simcoe and Experimental hops along with 2-Row, Biscuit and crystal malts. Dank AF with a nice malt presence, this double IPA treats your taste buds to a smooth bitterness and finishes with a nice dose of breadiness.

Cheers to the BrewHouse experience!

LETTERS@OCWEEKLY.COM

ROBERT FLORES

CAUSE AN EFFECT



Make dinner a selfless act by joining us for a fundraiser to support Alzheimer's Association. Come in to **any Orange County, CA Chipotle location** on **Thursday, June 7th** between **10:45am and 10.00pm**. Bring this flyer, show it on your smartphone or tell the cashier you're supporting the cause to make sure that 50% of the proceeds will be donated to Alzheimer's Association.

CHIPOTLE

Online orders will not be included in the fundraiser total. To ensure your purchase is counted in the fundraiser, be sure to order and pay in-restaurant. Gift card purchases during the fundraisers do not count towards total donated sales, but purchases made with an existing gift card will count.

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ANNE MARIE PANORINGAN

OC Movers & Shakers

Summer 2018 edition

BY ANNE MARIE PANORINGAN

There's been a whole lotta shakin' going on in Orange County lately. Fortunately, we're here to give you a proper rundown of what's new. Don't be surprised if you recognize a few names.

ANGELINA'S PIZZERIA NAPOLETANA

Chef Jonah Amodt, formerly linked to Andrea at the Resort at Pelican Hill, is now the executive chef of this dual-location brand. Bringing Amodt on board is a sign of things to come for Angelina's. While it will continue to offer authentic pizzas and primi pastas, diners can also look forward to halibut di stagione, seared Alaskan halibut in a creamy leek purée with sautéed oyster mushrooms and wild ramps. Burrata will be upgraded di Primavera, alongside English peas, fava beans, lemon and mint. Expect a roll out in time for the next major holiday weekend. *8573 Irvine Center Dr., Irvine, (949) 536-5200, also at 32860 Pacific Coast Hwy., Dana Point, (949) 429-1102; www.angelinaspizzeria.com*

HAVEN GASTROPUB

In October 2016, Craig Brady departed Haven for a coveted executive sous chef position at the RANCH. May marked his return to Old Towne as Haven's new executive chef, and we could taste the difference that 18 months in a kitchen with the brothers Rossi made. A classic cheesecake is playfully layered in a jar with rhubarb compote, Meyer lemon curd and malted streusel. Baby carrots are treated to a coriander roasting, as well as smoky almonds, harissa yogurt and lemon zest. Welcome back, chef! *190 S. Glassell St., Orange, (714) 221-0680, www.havengastropub.com*

HIVE & HONEY ROOFTOP BAR

One of our top five bartenders last year, Ravin Buzzell departed YNK to pursue other projects. He resurfaced a couple of months ago as operations manager of Marriott Irvine Spectrum's hot spot. And by hot, we mean velvet ropes on the ground floor corralling a line of twenty-somethings waiting to take the elevator. We kid you not. While he may be sporting a three-piece suit and roaming the lounge, you can definitely see Ravin's influence on the cocktail menu. Our favorite so far is Hey Boo Boo!—which is served in a honey-bear container. Try it June 20 as part of *OC Weekly*'s give-back initiative, Good Feels. Your $10 donation gets you admission to the rooftop bar and one specialty cocktail. We're ready for some avocado-inspired sips, Ravin! *7905 Irvine Center Dr., Irvine, (949) 759-0200, www.marriott.com*

FLEENOR'S ON 4TH

We met Linh Nguyen at a Foodbeast fundraiser and knew he had skills in the kitchen as the consulting chef. He's also been linked to the Crosby and Crave Restaurant, which is how Fleenor's gets its name. See, Judy Fleenor was an On the Line subject in 2011, when she was linked to Cafe Charmi. When that folded, she opened up Crave across from the Federal Building. The winning combination of Nguyen and Fleenor means solid bites such as steak frites and deviled eggs. *400 W. Fourth St., Santa Ana, (714) 316-5421*

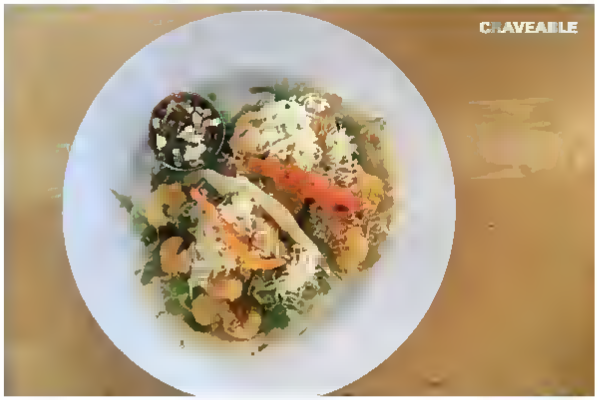
Hi-Time Wine Cellars
June 2018 Wine of the Month

TORRES ALTOS IBÉRICOS 2014 CRIANZA
$9.95 [383160] RIOJA, SPAIN

This was an easy choice for our Wine of the Month-- to get a Crianza level wine for under 10 bucks that's this delicious? **Inconceivable!**

"The nose is loaded with forward, ripe red fruits, assorted red berries, strawberry and plum. Savory notes of black tea and spice mélange provide additional layers. In the mouth the red fruits continue with bright cherries taking the lead, bolstered by umami earthiness and spice, tea and balsa wood reflections. It is impeccably balanced and drinks like a wine at least twice its price. The lengthly finish reiterates the olfactory and gustatory delights we experienced-- fruits and spices, earth and umami, enwrapped in a lush, rich mouthfeel that slowly recedes like a cloud-free summer sunset over the Pacific Ocean. **brilliant, memorable, rewarding.**"

250 Ogle Street • Costa Mesa CA 92627
949.650.8463 • www.hitimewine.net
@mrhitime on Instagram & Twitter



NICK SCHOU

Bite-Sized Comfort

Popcorn shrimp tacos at Memphis Soul Cafe

Ever since executive chef Diego Velasco began cooking food at Costa Mesa's Memphis Soul Cafe, I've been eating one of his most tastiest creations—the popcorn shrimp tacos—at the rate of about one or two times per week. I have always been a fan of Baja-style shrimp tacos, but Diego's ingenious twist on the classic Mexican dish calls for plump crustaceans lightly fried in cornmeal, then placed in flour tortillas with a generous portion of romaine lettuce, roasted red-pepper slices, chipotle aioli, and a pico de gallo garnish of onion and corn. I always ask for them with cheese, as the finely shredded pepper jack—along with a splash of Red Rooster Louisiana hot sauce—produces exactly the right amount of heat, as well as a fine excuse to quench it with a soothing IPA or two.

MEMPHIS SOUL CAFE
920 Bristol St., Costa Mesa, (714) 432 7685, memphiscafe.com

EatThisNow

» NICK SCHOU

DrinkOfTheWeek

» NICK SCHOU

#BASICBITCH at Hammer Workshop & Bar

NICK SCHOU

Located upstairs at Anaheim's Packing House, the Hammer Bar is somewhat akin to an airport bar. It caters mostly to tourists, folks visiting Disneyland or name-tag-wearing members of the Convention Center crowd—all of whom are drawn there thanks to the lively rotation of young bartenders and that there are several tables to which you can bring a tray of food from any of the nearby restaurants. What isn't so obvious is the Hammer Bar's craft cocktail menu. A great place to start is with the #BASICBITCH.

THE DRINK

This could be apocryphal, but the drink apparently got its rude moniker from the fact that it uses vodka—the most basic of all cocktail ingredients. But there's nothing basic about this drink. It's a delicately balanced mixture of pineapple, lemon and pomegranate which, when shaken together over ice, produces a wondrously frothy head. Topped with a lemon slice and an orchid flower, this is a drink that tells—in the best way imaginable—to live up to its name.

HAMMER WORKSHOP & BAR
440 S. Anaheim Blvd., Anaheim, (714) 533-7225

COURTESY OF OHIO HISTORY CONNECTION: AL07629

Death of the Dries

Drinks, Crime and Prohibition shows how the wets won

BY MATT COKER

Early in part one of the two-part Smithsonian Channel special *Drinks, Crime and Prohibition*, a talking head looks into the camera to say people today believe they know all about the decade-long national ban on alcohol that went into full effect in 1920. But as shown in producer/director Alex Jouve's excellent television documentary, there were many more implications to Prohibition than were depicted on HBO's *Boardwalk Empire*, Brian De Palma's *The Untouchables* or the 1931 William A. Wellman classic *The Public Enemy* starring Jimmy Cagney.

The common view is the evils of alcohol at the turn of the century prompted a counter-movement that created dry states, which snowballed into the national law that President Herbert H. Hoover called "the noble experiment." As alcohol disappeared from the open marketplace, gangsters, bootleggers and moonshiners filled the vacuum, creating an underground economy and criminal enterprises.

Those elements of the Prohibition story are true, as is the fact the government finally gave up on the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, which forbade the sale, manufacture and distribution of alcohol for public consumption. That's because people consume booze whether it is legal or not. By regulating it, there can at least be some control over negative societal impacts.

However, as laid out in *Drinks, Crime and Prohibition*, the battle between the so-called "wets and dries" actually had less to do with stemming the flow of liquor than it did with stemming the flow of European immigrants—and increasing the stream of blacks and Latinos into U.S. jails.

The temperance movement, which actually began in the U.S. in the 1820s, was still a niche group by the early 1900s, when the Ku Klux Klan was nearly dead, German transplants had created thriving breweries, and saloons had become centers of political power because that was where immigrant laborers gathered after work.

In the years leading up to 1920, the convergence of jazz, World War I, Christian values, white supremacy, female liberation and anti-immigrant sentiment re-energized not only the dries, but also the KKK and others seeking the ouster of blacks, Latinos and European immigrants, Jouve's special argues.

Also key, *Drinks, Crime and Prohibition* shows, was the 1913 ratification of the 16th Amendment, which created the federal income tax. The dries actually supported this because they realized Prohibition would be a non-starter in the halls of power without a new government-funding source to replace lost taxes on alcohol.

The two-part special covers a bevy of unintended consequences of Prohibition, including bathtub gin, government wiretaps, organized crime going national, the rise of urban speakeasies and the tabloid press, and the U.S. waging chemical warfare on its own citizens. These are explained by a solid lineup of historians, weapons experts and, this being the Southsonian Channel, museum curators, who show off some surprising inventions of the Prohibition era. You can't stop the entrepreneurial spirit, baby!

Notables who pop up onscreen include author, journalist and my former Village Voice Media colleague Michael Musto, mixologist Derek Brown, who shows how flavors and cocktails created because of Prohibition remain in our tumblers today; and Nelson Johnson, whose best-seller *Boardwalk Empire: The Birth, High Times, and Corruption of Atlantic City* inspired the HBO series.

Among the great lines peeled off in *Drinks, Crime and Prohibition* are "Prohibition was unenforceable from day one", "A federal role in crime prevention barely existed before Prohibition", and, my fave, "One thing the Roaring Twenties isn't is sober."

Then there is 2016 presidential candidate James "Jim" Hedges of the Prohibition Party, the country's third-oldest political party. He has a curious take on why the 18th Amendment, which was repealed in 1933, *did not* fail.

As Ken Burns and Lynn Novick did in 2011 with *Prohibition*, their five-and-a-half-hour PBS documentary, *Drinks, Crime and Prohibition* got me thinking about the parallels to the government's equally futile war on drugs. Just swap out jazz with rap, the national syndicate with the international cartels, and a prudish lack of empathy for alcoholics with a similar take on drug addicts by Jeff Sessions. No modern changes are necessary for white supremacy, anti-immigrant sentiment and the foolhardy notion that cutting supply ends demand.

Prohibition's end game was set in motion by the St. Valentine's Day Massacre of 1929, which capped a decade of carnage that horrified a nation, and the stock market crash that ushered in the Great Depression that impoverished a nation. Here, as in the frames before, Jouve and his team make excellent use of archival footage, historic photographs and some reenactments, although I did find repeats of the latter a bit tiresome. After a while, they just prompted me to go to the fridge for a cold one.

That beer cracking open is the sound of freedom.

DRINKS, CRIME AND PROHIBITION **premieres with part one on Smithsonian Channel Mon., 8 p.m. Part two airs June 18, 8 p.m.**

You Can't Repeat the Past

BY MATT COKER

WARNER BROS

RGB. Betsy West and Julie Cohen present a revelatory documentary on U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. *Directors Cut Cinema at Regency Rancho Niguel, 25471 Rancho Niguel Rd., Laguna Niguel, (949) 831-0446. Thurs., June 7, 11:45 a.m., 2:05, 4:25, 6:45 & 9:05 p.m. $9.50-$12.50, also at Regency South Coast Village, 1561 W. Sunflower Ave., Santa Ana, (714) 557-5701. Thurs., June 7, noon, 2:30 & 5 p.m. $8.50. The Frida Cinema, 305 E. Fourth St., Santa Ana; thefridacinema.org. Thurs., June 7, noon, 2:30, 5, 7 & 9 p.m. $7-$10; Art Theatre, 2025 E. Fourth St., Long Beach, (562) 438-5435. Thurs., June 7, 1, 3:15, 5:30 & 7:45 p.m. $8.50-$11.50.*

Punch-Drunk Love. A bathroom-supplies business owner's mundane life is turned upside-down when he falls in love with an Englishwoman and is extorted by a phone-sex-line owner. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Thurs., June 7, 3:30, 5:30 & 8 p.m.; Sat., 1:30, 3:30 & 5:30 p.m. $7-$10.*

Ti presento un amico (I Present a Friend). A handsome young business manager is burned by love before taking an appointment in London, where four beautiful women disrupt his life. *Regency San Juan Capistrano, 26762 Verdugo St., San Juan Capistrano, (949) 661-3456. Thurs., June 7, 7 p.m. $12.50.*

Fate/stay night [Heaven's Feel] I.presage flower: The Movie. Despair, romance and terrifying secrets of the Holy Grail War are experienced by protagonist Shirou Emiya (voiced by Bryce Papenbrook). Tomonori Sudo directed the adaptation of Kinoko Nasu's story. *Various theaters; www.fathomevents.com. Thurs., June 7, 7:30 p.m. $12.50.*

The 5th Passenger. In 2151, a starship becomes a casualty of war, forcing five crew members to escape into space in a pod built for four. When rescue seems imminent, a mysterious alien lifeform boards the craft. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Fri., noon & 2:30 p.m., Sat., noon, Sun.-Mon. & Thurs., June 14, noon & 2 p.m., Tues., noon, 2 & 9:30 p.m., Wed., noon, 2 4:30, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m. $7-$10.*

Avengers: Age of Ultron. Tony Stark and Bruce Banner inadvertently plunge Earth into chaos when they try to jump-start a dormant peacekeeping program called Ultron. It takes Iron Man, Hulk, Thor, Captain America and Black Widow to stop the madness. *Washington Middle School, 716 E. La Habra Blvd., La Habra, (562) 383-4205. Fri., 6 p.m. Free.*

Before the Flood. Fisher Stevens' documentary is about dramatic changes our planet is experiencing from climate change. *Peter & Mary Muth Interpretive Center, 2301 University Dr., Newport Beach, (949) 923-2290; www.NewportBay.org. Fri., doors open, 8:30 p.m., screening, 7 p.m. Free (includes parking, popcorn and punch), but RSVP because seating is limited.*

The Great Gatsby. Midwesterner Nick Carraway moves next door to millionaire Jay Gatsby, who takes the would-be writer under his wing. Attendees can discover coupons and discounts to neighboring stores and eateries, but movie seating is first-come, first-served. *The Source OC, 6940 Beach Blvd., Buena Park, (714) 521-8058; www.thesourceoc.com. Fri., 7 p.m. Free.*

Inherent Vice. A pothead P.I. comes to the aid of an ex-girlfriend who is having an affair with a rich real-estate tycoon and fears his wife may be plotting to have him committed. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Fri., 8 p.m., Sun., 7:30 p.m. $7-$10.*

Ground Zero Animation Expo. The third-annual event is aimed at those interested in breaking into the industry or anyone who appreciates animated films, shows and shorts. *Boys and Girls Club of Stanton, 11050 Cedar St., Stanton, gzaexpo.com. Sat.-Sun., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free.*

Star Wars: The Last Jedi. Besides an R2-D2 meet-and-greet, a lightsaber demonstration, a virtual-reality exploration of the universe, and much more, the library's *Star Wars* Day includes a screening of San Clemente-raised director Rian Johnson's 2017 action adventure flick from the prolific franchise. *Fullerton Public Library, 353 W. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, (714) 738-6327. Sat., activities begin, 10 a.m.; screening, 2 p.m. Free.*

Maseeland. Over three years, Miao Wang followed two "parachute students" from Mainland China to Maine, where they attended private school. *Art Theatre, (562) 438-5435. Sat., 11 a.m. $8.50-$11.50.*

The Rocky Horror Picture Show. Shadow cast Midnight Insanity performs in front of the screen. *Art Theatre, (562) 438-5435. Sat., 11:55 p.m. $8.50-$11.50.*

Bolshoi Ballet: *Coppelia.* Swanhilda notices her fiance Franz is infatuated with the beautiful Coppélia, who sits reading on her balcony each day. But Coppélia is not what she seems. *Various theaters, www.fathomevents.com. Call for show times and ticket prices.*

***Jumanji* Movie Event: Special Double Feature.** Fathom Events presents back-to-back the original 1995 comedy *Jumanji* and the 2017 blockbuster *Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle*. But first, there is a special, pre-recorded introduction. *Various theaters; www.fathomevents.com. Sun., 2 p.m., Mon., 6:30 p.m. $12.50.*

There Will Be Blood. The Directors Series tribute to Paul Thomas Anderson continues with his sweeping 2007 epic. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Mon., Tues., 2:30, 5:30 & 8:30 p.m., Sat., 8 p.m. $7-$10.*

Doctor Who: Genesis of the Daleks. The Doctor and his companions are transported to an ancient world to stop an evil scientist from unleashing the most destructive race of killing machines, the Daleks. *Various theaters, www.fathomevents.com. Mon., 7 p.m. $12.50.*

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time. Christopher, 15, is suspected of killing Mrs. Shears' dog. Distrusting strangers, detesting being touched and having never ventured beyond the end of his road, Chris embarks on a frightening journey to clear his name. *Various theaters, www.fathomevents.com. Tues., 7 p.m. $18.*

Airplane! The 1980 Zucker-Abrahams-Zucker spoof of airport disaster movies is the best movie ever made about the 1970s. *Directors Cut Cinema at Regency Rancho Niguel, (949) 831-0446. Tues., 7:30 p.m. $8.*

WALL-E. The last robot on Earth encounters EVE, a probe sent to Earth on a scanning mission. *Fullerton Public Library, (714) 738-6327. Wed., 4 p.m. Free.*

One Last Thing. A lonely Florida dentist is encouraged by his dental assistant to reunite with his long-lost daughter. *Various theaters, www.fathomevents.com. Wed., 7 p.m. $12.50.*

The Marx Brothers Double Feature. In 1930's *Animal Crackers*, a valuable painting goes missing during a party honoring famed African explorer Captain Spaulding (Groucho). In 1932's *Horse Feathers*, Huxley University's new president Quincy Adams Wagstaff (Groucho) hires bumblers Baravelli (Chico) and Pinky (Harpo) to help his school win the big football game against rival Darwin University. *Regency South Coast Village, (714) 557-5701. Wed., 7:30 p.m. $8.*

Interstellar. Matthew McConaughey takes off on a mission to save mankind and winds up in a (spoiler alert) bookcase. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own light snacks and covered beverages, but alcohol is not allowed. *Fullerton Public Library, (714) 738-6327. Thurs., June 14, 1 p.m. Free.*

Xanadu. MenAlive Orange County Gay Men's Chorus presents a fundraiser screening of Robert Greenwald's 1980 roller-disco musical. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Thurs., June 14, 7 p.m. $15.*

Riffrax Live: *Space Mutiny.* Mike, Kevin and Bill riff wise (and five) while they and you watch a very bad, very cheesy sci-fi epic. *Various theaters; www.fathomevents.com. Thurs., June 14, 8 p.m. (with a taped version June 19, 7:30 p.m.). $12.50.*

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Summer Stock

OC Weekly's midyear guide to the best in local theater

BY JOEL BEERS

It's summertime, and even though the living ain't always the easiest, OC summertime sure beats the hell out of Stockton summertime. And for those of you who want to immerse yourself in a little bit of artsy-fartsy culture, there's plenty of stuff both inside and outside, theatrically speaking, to satisfy that most perverse of urges.

Here are eight of the most interesting productions and festivals on tap this summer, plus an honorary mention for a ninth, which is really just sad.

The Twilight Zone. This summer tradition returns with three theatricalized episodes of Rod Serling's masterpiece TV series, including this curmudgeon's all-time favorite, featuring a most unusual camera that takes pictures of the future and the low-life shysters who wind up fucking up this incredible opportunity. *STAGES-theatre, 400 E. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, (714) 525-4484, stagesoc.org. June 15-July 8. $20-$22.*

The Rocky Horror Show. This is the fourth time the Maverick has rolled out this classic love story of peace, love and understanding, but the first since 2009, so expect some new blood. Literally. *Maverick Theater, 110 E. Walnut Ave., Fullerton, (714) 526-7070, www.mavericktheater.com. June 22-Aug. 11. $15-$30.*

Big Fish. While its billing as a show for "everyone who loves musicals" might scare most sane people away, the source material is impressive. It's adapted from Daniel Wallace's 1998 novel and Tim Burton's 2003 film about a dying man's grown son trying to uncover the truth of his dad while sorting through the larger-than-life stories about him. *Chance Theater, 6552 E. La Palma, Anaheim, (888) 455-4212, chancetheater.com. June 29-July 29. $41-$45.*

Big River. What better way to while a summer evening or Sunday afternoon than by watching a musical version of Mark Twain's canonical *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*? Okay, we can think of about 1,988 just off the top of our heads, but this is a rarely done musical that won all the major Tony Awards in 1985 and features music by Roger Miller, a dead guy who just happens to be a member of the Country Music Hall of Fame. *Mysterium Theater at La Habra Depot Playhouse, 311 S. Euclid St., La Habra, (562) 697-3311, mysteriumtheater.com. July 6-29. $25-$40.*

A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Winter's Tale. The best Shakespeare productions in OC, hands down, are courtesy of the electrifying and talented New Swan Shakespeare Festival troupe, who operate out of the county's most interesting playing space: an intimate, outdoor, cylindrical venue modeled after an authentic Elizabethan theater. *New Swan Theater, UC Irvine, 4002 Mesa Rd., Irvine, (949) 824-2787, newswanshakespeare.com. Both shows in repertory July 5-Sept. 1. $15-$55.*

The Christians. One of OC's finest directors, Michael Serna, tackles Lucas Hnath's 2014 play, which seems to embody one part of OC. The pastor of an evangelical megachurch threatens to create a schism among his flock for—gasp—preaching he doesn't believe hell exists. *Costa Mesa Playhouse, 661 Hamilton St., Costa Mesa, (949) 650-5269, costamesaplayhouse.com. June 22-July 15. $20-$22.*

The Tempest. The ambitious gypsy troupe Alchemy Theatre Co. surfaces in Huntington Beach with this telling of Shakespeare's most produced play (seriously, I read that once, somewhere). It's outdoors, so bring the usual things: blankets, towels, picnic basket, huge bong. *Golden West College Amphitheatre, 15744 Golden West St., Huntington Beach, www.alchemytheatre.com. July 7-22. $30.*

OC-centric New Play Festival. The eighth year of OC's only full-fledged fest dedicated to new works includes one full-length play, *Allegory of the Cave* by Darren Andrew Nash, and three one-acts courtesy of Cambria Denim (who has the best name. Ever), Buddy Farmer (another good one) and James Colgan (whom we're sure is a very interesting guy). *Chapman University's Moulton Hall Studio, 300 Palm Ave., Orange, www.oc-centric.com. Aug. 16-26. $12-$23, tickets available via BrownPaperTickets.com.*

Shakespeare Orange County Summerfest. John Walcutt's ridiculously popular summer series in Garden Grove, which has attracted more than 1,000 artists and performers and some 30,000 people over four years, is canceled this year. The reason, areording to a statement on its website (shakespeareoc.org/2018season/), is construction and permitting delays relating to refurbishing the theater. Will artistic director Walcutt and friends return? As he says in the statement, "We will see what the future will bring. Everything is up in the air right now, as we try our best to deal with this."

This was the best thing to happen in Orange County theater in a very long time, and if the city can't figure out a way to help support this incredibly talented, seasoned and ambitious company, then hopefully some other entity will step in to give them the home—and support—they truly require. So contact John Montanchez, Garden Grove's director of community services, at johnmo@ci.garden-grove.ca.us, and say, "WE WANT SUMMERFEST TO STAY!!!"

LETTERS@OCWEEKLY.COM

WHERE'S OBI-WAN?

COURTESY OF THE CHANCE THEATER

ARTSOVERLOAD

» AIMEE MURILLO

June 8-14

ANNUAL STUDENT DESIGNER FASHION SHOW *THE ART OF MOVEMENT*. Current students and alumni bring their most daring, avant-garde designs to a runway event, along with a barbecue fundraiser. Sat., 5 p.m. Free entry with bag of used clothing, otherwise, $15-$30. Art Institute of California–Orange County, 3601 W. Sunflower Ave., Santa Ana. www.artinstitutes.edu.

BOLSHOI BALLET: *COPPELIA*. The comedic production about a dollmaker who builds a beautiful ballerina whom he adores, causing much jealousy in his fiancée. Sun. Call for show times. $6-$11. Regency South Coast Village, 1561 Sunflower Ave., Santa Ana. (714) 557-5700. www.regencymovies.com.

GROUND ZERO ANIMATION EXPO: Industry legends, professionals, artists, vendors and more gather for a two-day celebration. Sat.-Sun., 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Free to attend; workshops and panels, $10-$20. Boys and Girls Club of Stanton, 11050 Cedar St., Stanton. gzaexpo.com.

"REBASE: ACTIVATE": Four artists examine physical manifestations of sound to challenge its ephemeral nature. Open daily, noon–6 p.m. Through June 10. Beall Center for Art + Technology, 712 Arts Plaza, Irvine, (949) 824-6206, bealicenter.uci.edu.

"THE SECOND HALF: A GROUP EXHIBITION FOR ARTISTS 50 AND OLDER": A showcase of works that examine mature perspectives and viewpoints. Open Sun.-Wed., 10:30 a.m.–6 p.m., Thurs.-Sat., 11 a.m.–8 p.m. Through June 29. Free. Las Laguna Gallery, 577 S. Coast Hwy., Laguna Beach, (949) 505-0950. www.laslagunagallery.com.

SOUTHLAND BALLET ACADEMY: *GRAND DEFILE*. A recital for students of jazz, ballet and other contemporary styles. Sat., 5 p.m., Sun., noon & 5 p.m. $24. Irvine Barclay Theatre, 4242 Campus Dr., Irvine, (949) 854-4646, www.thebarclay.org.

"TINY TERRORS": An art show that captures people's phobias in miniature, either small paintings, sculptures or other small forms. Opening reception: Sat., 7–10 p.m. Gallery open Tues.-Sat., 11 a.m. 7 p.m., Sun., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Through June. Dark Art Emporium, 256 Elm Ave., Long Beach. (562) 612-9118. www.darkartemporium.com.

TONY AWARDS VIEWING PARTY: Broadway's biggest awards night will be screened at Argyros Plaza with a red-carpet viewing party; portable seating arrangements are encouraged. Sun., 7 p.m. Fren Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa, (714) 556-2787. www.scfta.org.

"WOMEN MAKING WAVES": A look at some of surf history's most trailblazing women surfers, from the early days of Polynesian surfing through today. Open Tues.-Sun., 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Through August. Surfing Heritage and Culture Center, 110 Calle Iglesias, San Clemente. (949) 388-8313; shacc.org.

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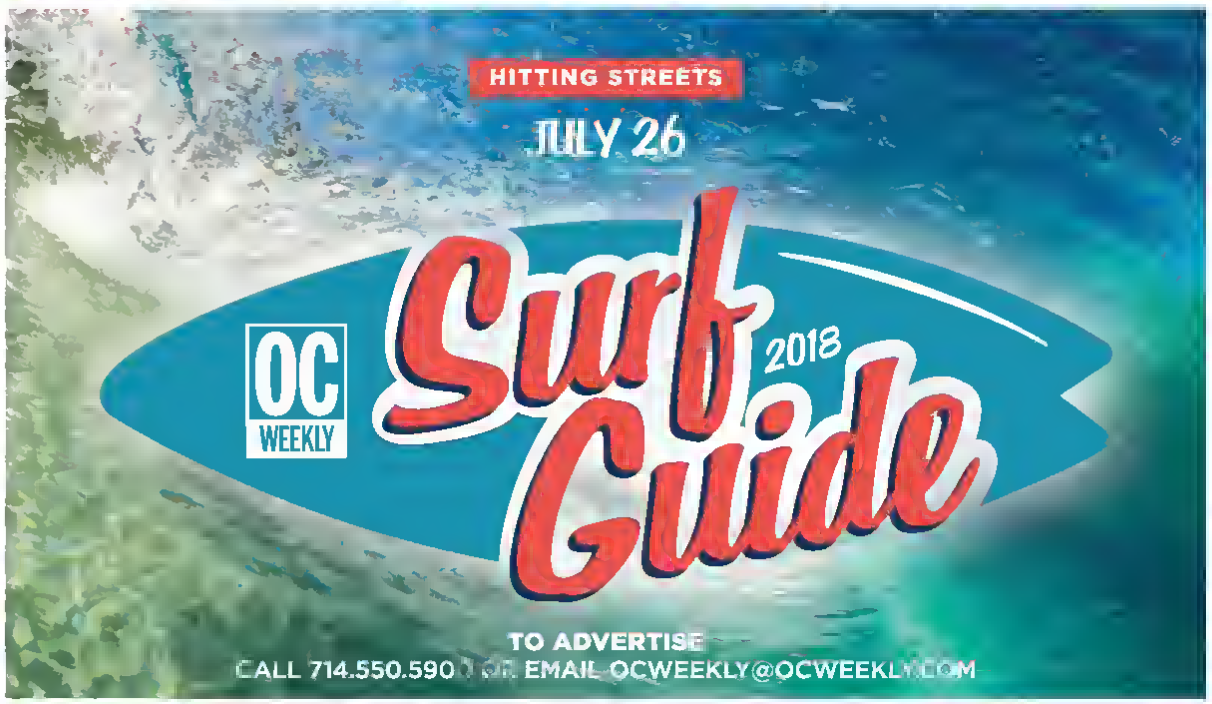
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Heat In the Streets

East End Block Party's fire grows in downtown Santa Ana

BY JOSH CHESLER

J.J. ARCINAS

During the past five years, there's been an oversaturation of festival culture, leading to some negative emotions and restrictions regarding what a festival can really be about. Every weekend, it seems as if there's a new for-profit music, food or film event making greedy promoters boatloads of money with the same generic setup and attractions and astronomical beer prices. What was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity has become such a predictable template that high-dollar festivals with the slightest bit of variance—from Coachella's massive desert sprawl to Camp Flog Gnaw's carnival attractions—are now praised for their individuality in a sea of virtually identical weekend-long events.

The East End Block Party isn't one of those photocopied festivals.

With more than 70 acts spread across 10 hours and four stages, the fifth-annual summer celebration of downtown Santa Ana brings together everything from local food and shopping to up-and-coming national artists and musicians—all without charging admission. Rather than using the event to turn a profit, the guys behind the East End Block Party want to put their neighborhood and city on the map.

"I think a lot of people still don't know what's happening in Santa Ana or haven't been here before or have a negative perception of it, so I think to see people's reactions when they come here is really neat," says Ryan Chase, the primary stakeholder of the East End Block Party—as well as the landlord for much of downtown Santa Ana. "I know people who live in Santa Ana who have never been downtown, so I think it's exciting to show off what's happening with the growth and development of the party, the community and the city."

One of the driving forces behind the East End Block Party for the past four years is Tyson Pruong of Konsept Project, one of Santa Ana's most prominent creative collectives. "Any chance I get to show people a different side of downtown, they're always like, 'We never knew this was happening in our own back yard,'" he says. "Now, I have friends I've made as far as the East Coast who come out just for the weekend of the East End Block Party. It's crazy that we've made such a big impact."

Adds DJ Droops, who handles talent for one of the East End Block Party's stages, "I've watched this festival grow, and I had artists already asking me last year if I was involved with it because I'm born and raised in Santa Ana and most of my events are here in Santa Ana. I've come out to the last two or three events, and it's an honor just to be asked to be involved. I really have so much love for this city, and I just wanted to bring some talent and some ideas to the table for this."

The transformation of downtown Santa Ana has been a bit of a touchy subject among some of its long-term residents and newer tenants, as the culture of the area shifts from its traditional Latinx roots to a more contemporary, urban feel. With that comes the evolution of the East End Block Party, a fusion of hip-hop, rock, street art and streetwear culture that now has expanded into a brand all its own. With Chase, Pruong and Chris Gonzalez of Top Acid—Pruong's more rock-themed counterpart—bringing in local heavy hitters such as Droops, who helped shape the Observatory's recent hip-hop resurgence, and trendsetters such as the Coollab Project, each East End Block Party takes plenty of planning and coordination to bring forth a few people's visions of what a downtown Santa Ana festival should be like.

"There are a lot more emails going back and forth now," Chase jokes. "It's a lot more fun now that we have more people involved. When Tyson and some of the others started doing it, we didn't know where it was going to go or how it was going to evolve, but that all just organically kind of happened. There's no official Block Party thing where we start planning on a specific date, but it just kind of morphs, and every year, we get a little better at it."

"The people we get involved with each year help it grow," Pruong adds. "The lineup is getting better. The other promoters and organizers we have now are definitely helping to make it grow, and I think it makes it easier that we have the right tenants here to help push the event as well."

Making Droops an official part of the East End Block Party crew raised the level of artists attainable for the event. While Pruong may have his fingerprints on the majority of Santa Ana's local hip-hop scene, Droops' 11 years in the industry, working with the likes of the Observatory and Goldenvoice, has given him access to such headliners as Reverie, OHNO and RJ, all of whom will appear on the East End stage this year. "We had a long list of talent that we wanted to go after, but unfortunately, some people are on tour and stuff like that," Droops says. "Honestly, the lineup that we pulled off is pretty solid for the amount of time and budget that we had. … Reverie is touring the world now, and RJ is one of the biggest artists coming out of LA in the past few years. Even the guys under them are cool, too. They're all on their way up, and I think I'm really going to enjoy this lineup."

Despite Chase's hands-on mentality with most of his ventures, the father of two is more than willing to step aside and let his younger volunteers handle the programming for a crowd that he admittedly knows little to nothing about. "Both Tyson and Chris from Top Acid have built these followings where people have started to know about them and get the word out," Chase says. "Konsept does a few events a year, and people hear about them. Top Acid does even less events, so when they do an event, all these teeny-bopper kids—the Burger Records crowd or whatever—come out for it. I'm too old for it, but these kids go fucking crazy for these bands he pulls. He finds these random bands that have a few hundred or a few thousand followers, but for some reason these kids gravitate toward these bands. It's well above my head, but whatever they're doing is working. I just try to empower the young guys who are in the trenches and doing cool shit."

EAST END BLOCK PARTY

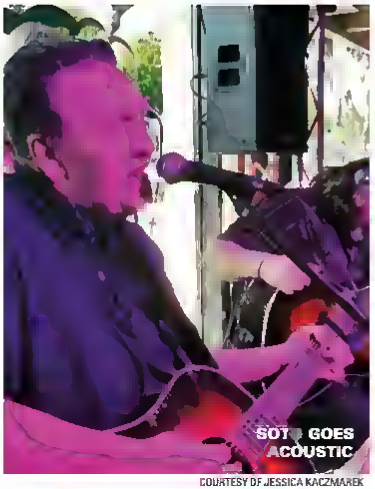
featuring RJ, Reverie, Hi-Tone and more, in Downtown Santa Ana, 305 E. Fourth St., Santa Ana, eastenddtsa.com/event/east-end-block-party-2/2018-06-09/ Sat., noon-10 p.m. Free. All ages.

Punk Rock Unplugged

Big Easy Sunday is an acoustic outlet for four-chord fury

BY NATE JACKSON

The beauty of punk is its ability to take on many forms. Whether it's the product of mosh pits and maxed-out amplifiers or campfire songs with a folksy twang, the ideas and the attitude are what make it punk by definition. For OC legends such as Steve Soto of the Adolescents, the idea of enjoying a laid-back afternoon show with the best punk songwriters in OC is what inspired his new monthly event, Big Easy Sunday, featuring himself and a rotating cast of fellow old-school punkers at Bourbon Street in downtown Fullerton. Recently, Soto talked to us about the rock-solid sounds and camaraderie that feed this bit of acoustic anarchy.



COURTESY OF JESSICA KACZMAREK

OC WEEKLY *Describe the acoustic-show series at Bourbon Street and how it came together.*

STEVE SOTO It's a group of acoustic sets, everyone on the bill does about four songs each, and we change it up every month to get more people involved. I'm the MC of the whole thing. It started off as a one-off thing, but it was really fun. Greg [Antista] started joking when he first got onstage and said, "We're doing this every month," but then afterward, we were all talking and said, "You know what? Maybe we should do this every month." *Who's playing every month? Does it rotate?* Mostly it's gonna be local guys. The thing was, when we did it the first time, all the guys we grew up around showed up, and we said, "If we do this every month, we should try to get all these great songwriters involved who are still around."

What do you like most about punk rock in an acoustic format?

People tell stories up there; it's really relaxed and intimate/casual. ... I mean, what else are you doing at 3 p.m. on a Sunday? It was a really cool turnout last time, with a lot of old-school Fullerton people. My whole thing with acoustic guitars comes from back in the old punk-rock days, when Frank Agnew and I would play acoustic guitars at backyard parties when we were bored. We'd figure out how to do the whole *Tommy* album [by the Who] on acoustic guitars.

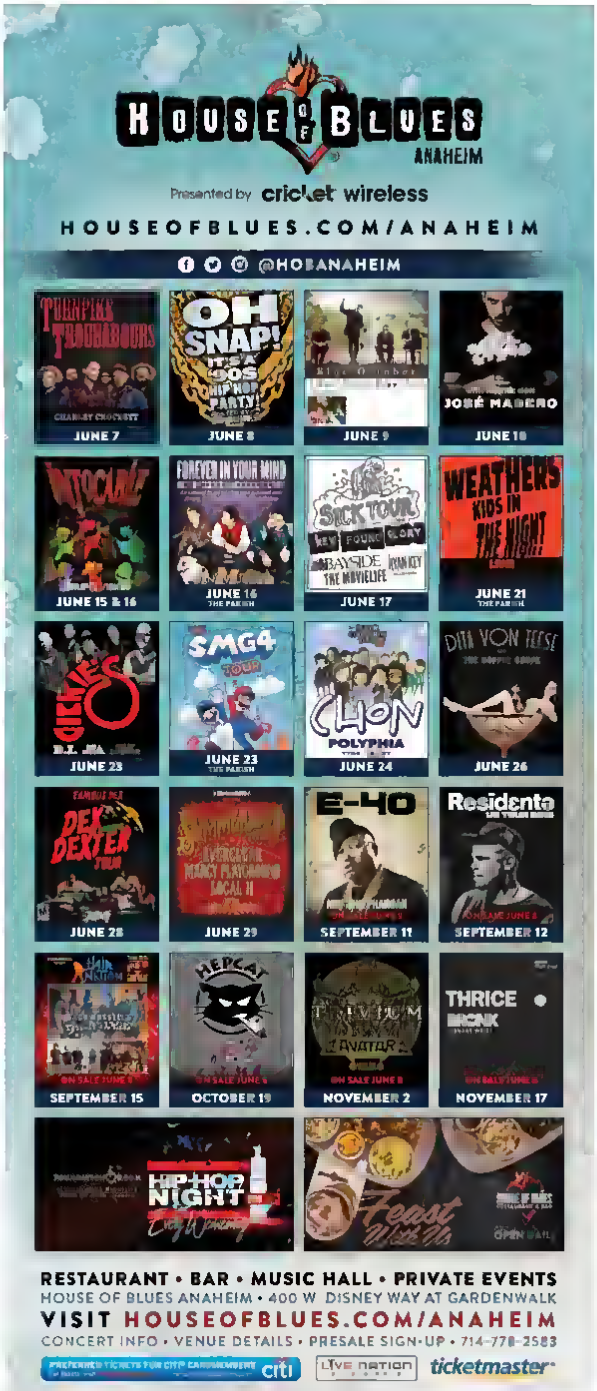
Why is Fullerton an ideal location for a series like this?

It just feels like home—even people who moved away from Fullerton are coming back. It's funny because none of that stuff was there when we were growing up. I'd actually never been to Bourbon Street until I performed there for the first time.

You recently finished recording an album with the Adolescents called Cropduster *[with a tentative U.S. release date in July]. What's your favorite part about recording with them?*

Tony [Reflex] always comes with great lyrical ideas, so that's always the last thing to get done. We don't always go in rehearsed; we'll go in and start recording music, and then he comes in and puts vocals on things. So my favorite part is going down when he's tracking his vocals to figure out what he's singing, and there's some really cool stuff on this record—I'm really pumped on it. I'm sure a lot of punk bands are gonna be putting out a lot of records on Donald Trump over the next couple of years. But the first five or six songs, we don't have a lot on that, but Tony said, "No one wants to hear me screaming about Trump for a whole hour." ... We have a really good one called "Nuclear Football" about Trump with the nuclear codes, but it's written like a play-by-play of a football game. It's really funny.

BIG EASY SUNDAY
featuring Jessica Kaczmarek, Steve Soto, Eric Leach, Greg Antista and Denny Walker, at Bourbon Street, 110 E. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, (714) 626-0050, bourbonstreetfullerton.com. Sun., 3-6 p.m. Free. 21+



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concert guide»

BRITTANY WOOLSEY

Friday

BLEEDING THROUGH: 8 p.m. $20, all ages. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600, www.observatoryoc.com

OH SNAP! '90S HIP-HOP DANCE PARTY WITH DJ QUIK: 8 p.m., $15, 18+. House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 W. Disney Way, Anaheim, (714) 778-2583, www.houseofblues.com/anaheim.

PASTE, BIG FUN, THE LANITARIANS: 8 p.m., $5, 21+. The Wayfarer, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa, (949) 764-0039, www.wayfarercm.com

PETTY OR NOT, THE BLACK CROWES REVIVAL, FIREMELON, THE MISH: 7:30 p.m., $12, 21+. Tiki Bar, 1700 Placentia, Costa Mesa, (949) 270-6262, www.tikibaroc.com

RILEY! SIRAH, MICHAEL RARR, NOAHJVMES, FRANKY OK, GOODBYE, TIERNANSJUX. 7 p.m., $12-$14, all ages. Chain Reaction, 1652 Lincoln Ave., Anaheim, (714) 635-6067, allages.com

SWEET AND TENDER HOOLIGANS: 9 p.m. $25, 21+. Marty's On Newport, 14401 Newport Ave., Tustin, (714) 544-1995, www.martysonnewport.com.

Saturday

BLUE OCTOBER: 7 p.m., $30, all ages. House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 W. Disney Way, Anaheim, (714) 778-2583, www.houseofblues.com/anaheim

MINUS THE BEAR, THE NEW TRUST: 8 p.m., $25, all ages. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600, www.observatoryoc.com.

POWER PUNKS, SCOTTI MARS AND THE HELLCATS, BON JOEY, BUTHCREST: 8 p.m., $10, 21+. Tiki Bar, 1700 Placentia, Costa Mesa, (949) 270-6262, www.tikibaroc.com.

STARPOOL'S 18-YEAR ANNIVERSARY, WITH CODENAME: ROCKY, HALF-PAST TWO, MATAMOSRA, BE LIKE MAX, HOORAY FOR OUR SIDE, MAFIA BUSA, THE MEOOLERS, MAJOR LEAGUE SKANKERS, SKASERRY JAM: 5 p.m., $5-$25, all ages. The Garden Amp, 12762 Main St., Garden Grove, (949) 415-8544, www.gardenamp.com

SWEET AND TENDER HOOLIGANS: 9 p.m., $25, 21+. Marty's On Newport, 14401 Newport Ave., Tustin, (714) 544-1995, www.martysonnewport.com.

THEM EVILS: 8 p.m., $5, 21+. The Wayfarer, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa, (949) 764-0039, www.wayfarercm.com

Sunday

MIGHTY DIAMONDS: 9 p.m., $15, all ages. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600, www.observatoryoc.com.

REGGAE SUNDAY, FEATURING ROOTS OF MINE, INNERWAVES: 8 p.m., free, 21+. The Slidebar Rock N Roll Kitchen, 122 E. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, (714) 871-7469, www.slidebarfullerton.com

SWEET AND TENDER HOOLIGANS: 9 p.m., $25, 21+. Marty's On Newport, 14401 Newport Ave., Tustin, (714) 544-1995, www.martysonnewport.com.

UNA NOCHE CON JOSE MADERO: the singer of PXNDX, 7 p.m., $25, all ages. House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 W. Disney Way, Anaheim, (714) 778-2583, www.houseofblues.com/anaheim

Monday

BLANCO NINO: 8 p.m., free, 21+. The Wayfarer, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa, (949) 764-0039, www.wayfarercm.com.

Wednesday

EYE THE REALIST, SLOWTRIP, LIKE ADULTS. 7 p.m., $10, 21+. Tiki Bar, 1700 Placentia, Costa Mesa, (949) 270-6262, www.tikibarnc.com.

MOXI: 8 p.m., $5, 21+. The Wayfarer, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa, (949) 764-0039, www.wayfarercm.com.

SHWAYZE & CISCO: 8 p.m., $20, 21+. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600, www.observatoryoc.com.

Thursday, June 14

ALLAH-LAS: 8 p.m., $30, 21+. Marty's On Newport, 14401 Newport Ave., Tustin, (714) 544-1995, www.martysonnewport.com

DUBBEST, WHITE GLOVE SERVICE. 8 p.m., free, 21+. The Slidebar Rock-N-Roll Kitchen, 122 E. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, (714) 871-7469, www.slidebarfullerton.com.

FLATBUSH ZOMBIES: 8 p.m., $27.50-$30, all ages. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600, www.observatoryoc.com.

KRAZY WHITE BOY, BONEHEADZ, ALLOVER OPTICVN: 7 p.m., $10, all ages. Chain Reaction, 1652 Lincoln Ave., Anaheim, (714) 635-6067, allages.com.

SEMIOTICE | STEREODOVE. 8 p.m., $10, 21+. Tiki Bar, 1700 Placentia, Costa Mesa, (949) 270-6262, www.tikibarnc.com.

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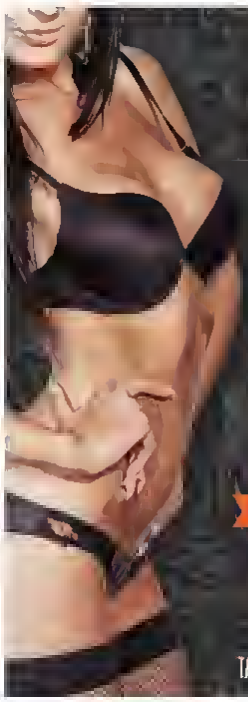

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Shameful

I've been married to my husband for two years. Five months into our relationship (before we got married), he confessed he was an adult baby. I was so grossed out that I was literally ill. (Why would this great guy want to be like this?!) I told him he would have to choose: diapers or me. He chose me. I believed him and married him. Shortly before the birth of our child, I found out he'd been looking at diaper porn online. I lost it. He apologized and said he'd never look at diaper porn again. Once I was free to have sex again after the birth, it was like he wasn't into it. When I asked what the deal was, he told me he wasn't into sex because diapers weren't involved. I broke down, and he agreed to talk to a counselor. But on the day we were supposed to go, he was mad about every little thing I did, and then he said he wasn't going! I went crazy and called his mom and told her everything, and she said she found a diaper under his bed when he was 7! After this crisis, he agreed to work things out, but then I found adult-size diapers in the house—and not for the first time! I took a picture and sent it to him, and he told me that he was tired of me controlling him, and he is going to do this when he wants. He also said he was mad at me for telling his mom. I told him an absolutely not, he cannot do this. Then I found adult-size diapers in the house again this morning and freaked out. He says he never wants to discuss diapers with me again, and I'm afraid he might choose them over me! Please give me advice on how to make him understand that this is not him! This is who he chooses to be! And he doesn't have to be this way!

Married A Disgusting Diaper Lover

First, MADDL, let's calmly discuss this with a shrink.

"There's a fair bit of controversy over whether people can suppress fetishistic desires like this—and whether it's healthy to ask them to do so," said Dr. David Ley, a clinical psychologist, author and AASECT-certified sex therapist. "Personally, I believe in some cases, depending on the support of their environment and personal relationships, it is possible, but only when these desires are relatively mild in intensity."

Your husband's interest in diapers—which would seem to go all the way back to at least age 7—can't be described as mild.

"Given the apparent strength and persistence of her husband's interest, I think it unlikely that suppression could ever be successful," said Dr. Ley. "In this case, I think MADDL's desire for her husband to have sexual desires she agrees with in order for her to be married to him is a form of sexual extortion, i.e., 'If you love me and want to be with me, you'll give up this sexual interest that I find disgusting.' Without empathy, mutual respect, communication, unconditional love, and willingness to negotiate and accommodate compromises and win-win solutions, this couple is doomed, regardless of diapers under the bed."

Now let's bring in a voice you rarely hear when diaper fetishists are being discussed: an actual diaper fetishist.

"The common misconception with ABDL (adult baby diaper-lovers) is that they are into inappropriate things—like having an interest in children—and this couldn't be more wrong," said Pup Jackson, a twentysomething diaper-lover and kink educator. "ABs is not always sexual. Sometimes it's a way for a person to disconnect from their adult life and become someone else. With DLs, they aren't necessarily into age play—they enjoy diapers and the way they feel much like people enjoy rubber, Lycra or other materials. To understand her husband, MADDL needs to ask questions about why her husband enjoys diapers and figure out how to deal with it—because a lot of people want/need these kinds of outlets in their life."

Okay, MADDL, now it's time for me to share my thoughts with you, but—Christ almighty—I hardly know where to begin.

"Great guys" can be into diapers; this is not who your husband "chooses to be," since people don't choose their kinks any more than they choose their sexual orientation, outing your husband to his mother was unforgivable and could ultimately prove to be a fatal-to-your-marriage violation of trust; a counselor isn't going to be able to reach into your husband's head and yank out his kink. ("I absolutely *hate* that therapists are seen as sexual enforcers who are supposed to carve away any undesirable sexual interests and make people 'normal,'" said Dr. Ley.)

You're clearly not interested in understanding your husband's kink, per Pup Jackson's advice, nor are you open to working out an accommodation that allows your husband to explore his kink on his own, per Dr. Ley's advice. Instead, you've convinced yourself that if you pitch a big enough fit, your husband will choose a spouse who makes him feel terrible about himself over a kink that gives him pleasure. And that's not how this is going to play out.

Your husband told you he was into diapers before he married you—he laid his kink cards on the table at five months, long before you scrambled your DNA together—and he backed down when you freaked out. He may have thought he could choose you over his kink, MADDL, but now he knows what Dr. Ley could've told you two before the wedding: Suppressing a kink just isn't possible. So if you can't live with the diaper-lover you married—if you can't accept his kink, allow him to indulge it on his own and refrain from blowing up when you stumble onto any evidence—do that diaper-loving husband of yours a favor and divorce him.

Follow Dr. David Ley on Twitter @DrDavidLey and Pup Jackson on Twitter @pupjacksonbitez.

I'm a 33-year-old man, and for years, I've practiced edging. Recently, I've experimented with long-term edges, where I'll withhold coming for days or weeks while still maintaining a daily masturbation practice. I love living on that horny edge, and I've even learned to love the ache in my balls. But is this safe? Am I setting myself up for prostate/testicular trouble down the road?

Priapus Precipice

A study conducted by researchers from Boston University School of Public Health and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health found that men who masturbated at least 21 times per month—masturbated *and* ejaculated—were at lower risk of developing prostate cancer than men who ejaculated less than 21 times per month ("Ejaculation Frequency and Risk of Prostate Cancer," *European Urology*). Read the study, PP, weigh the slightly increased risks against the immediate (and horny) rewards, and make an informed (and horny) choice.

HEY, EVERYBODY: We've got rainbow ITMFA T-shirts and tank tops in time for Pride, and you can order them at ImpeachTheMotherFuckerAlready.com! ITMFA T-shirts and tanks—and buttons and hats and lapel pins—are a great conversation starter. Wear one to a party or bar or parade, and people will ask you what ITMFA stands for—and then you get to tell them. Impeach the motherfucker already! (If they laugh, take them home! If they frown, tell them off!) All proceeds from the sale of ITMFA merch goes to the ACLU, Planned Parenthood and the International Refugee Assistance Project. We've already donated more than $200K to those three great orgs and another $15K to hurricane relief efforts in Puerto Rico. Go to ITMFA.org to get your ITMFA tees and tanks in time for Pride!

On the Lovecast (savagelovecast.com), Slate's Evan Urquhart on dating a trans guy. Contact Dan via email at mail@savagelovenet, follow him on Twitter @fakedansavage, and visit ITMFA.org.

SavageLove

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SCVA Kosher Kush

The nonprofit organization Santa Cruz Veterans Alliance (SCVA) provides veterans and the general public safe access to lab tested medical marijuana. Founded in 2011 by Jason Sweatt and Aaron Newsom, SCVA provides jobs, seminars and workshops for any veteran or supporter raising awareness of the staggering suicide rates within the veteran community via its Veterans Compassion Program. The group hopes the Department of Veterans Affairs will someday recognize medical cannabis as a safe alternative to dangerous pharmaceuticals.

Grown by the SCVA, Kosher Kush is a potent, 420 indica-dominant hybrid that may or may not have been blessed by a rabbi. This hard-hitting strain is known for its powerful "couch locking" abilities, so make sure you wait until you've already made it to the pool before you light it up this summer. It's bright, floral and absolutely drenched in flavorful terpenes. Sold exclusively in Orange County at Blüm, we recommend getting your hands on it sooner rather than later.

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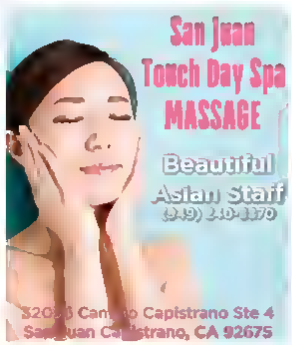

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Democracy In Action

How did OC voters fare in Tuesday's election?

BY JIM WASHBURN

Such a momentous little election. Usually a primary in a non-presidential year elicits less interest than a *CHiPS* marathon on MeTV. This year is different, since *Il Douche* in the White House is becoming increasingly unhinged and autocratic by the day (He's above the law because he IS the fountainhead of the law, see?) and seems intent on unmaking a century of American progress, eroding our standing in the world and packing our government with super-villains. (Just in June 5's news, Education secretary Betsy DeVoss announced that guns won't be considered in the department's study of school shootings—and let's leave aircraft out of aviation-disasters studies, shall we?), while EPA director Scott Pruitt was shown to have taken time off from despoiling our skies and waterways to use his office to try to secure his wife a Chick-fil-A franchise.

Meanwhile, the legislative branch that should be holding the executive in check is doing anything but. Which brings us to our primary. The Democrats' hope of flipping the House relies heavily on California, and those hopes threatened to be stymied by our curious open-primary system, in which the top two vote-getters, regardless of party, move on to the general election. The problem there is that in heavily partisan districts, it's very possible the general ballot could wind up with a choice between two Republicans or two Democrats.

This isn't sleepy time. The results of this election may set the die for whether Trump ever has to heed the Constitution and the rule of law, or if he gets to expand his golden reign.

This is why MSNBC's Katy Tur was broadcasting beside the Huntington Beach Pier no June 5, and why CNN, *The New York Times* and others were scrutinizing our races. I don't know whether FOX News was doing similar pieces; its broadcasters were busy enough lying about the Philadelphia Eagles (FOX was caught fobbing off images of players' pregame praying as them taking a knee during the National Anthem.)

Writing late on election night, it's still too early to call anything, but I can note that in the County Clerk-Recorder race Steve Rocco is inching up, from 18.1 percent to 18.4 percent. That's an inversion of the 81 percent incumbent Hugh Nguyen was showing, but it's remarkable still.

Thanks to low-information voters, even a stick of rancid butter can usually draw about 11 percent of the vote. Rocco, however, gives the impression he has a rancid summer sausage lodged in his brain. And people should know this by now. In 2004, without campaigning at all, Rocco was elected with 54 percent of the vote to the Orange Unified School Board. For years afterward, meetings would grind to a halt while Rocco expounded upon his delusions about a cabal of government and business leaders (including Albertsons supermarkets, Kodak and the company that makes SmokeCraft sausage) who had conspired to frame him since the early 1980s for the theft of a roll of Super 8 film and a summer sausage, and, failing that, had tried to kill him and get him fired from jobs.

You can read about all this from his point of view in his intensely strange book, *R.O.C.C.O. Behind the Orange Curtain*. Rocco is to good, sound governance what that North County waterslide that impaled a kid on jagged fiberglass is to amusement parks.

Hello, this just in. It's now 5:30 a.m. on June 6, and the doughty OC election officials have all the precincts counted. Steve Rocco got 21.5 percent of the vote, meaning there are some 65,683 of our fellow countians who likely don't use their turn signals or eyes when they drive and eat pie with their fingers.

Nguyen, who has done a conscientious job for years, received 78.5 percent of the vote, but it still has to be galling for him that one out of every five voters preferred a man in a wool cap who looks as if he spends his days poking at anthills with a stick. Rocco is a strange cat, as far as I know, he was the only candidate on the ballot whose Wikipedia entry has a section titled "Ketchup theft and arrest."

On this Wednesday morning, appears that fears of a partisan lockout on the November ballot have dwindled (though in the Senate race, Diane Feinstein will square off against fellow Dem Kevin de Leon). The governor's race—which had threatened to be a standoff between Gavin Newsom and Antonio Villaraigosa—will instead see Newsom facing Republican John Cox.

Democrats had worried about a Republican-Republican far enff in the key congressional districts they hope to flip, but a Democrat landed solidly in second place in each. That's not exactly the sweeping "blue tide" many of us hoped for (in the Central Valley, Trump waterboy Devin Nunes got twice the votes of his Democratic challenger), but it does set things up for November, when lazy-ass Democrats are more likely to rouse from their recliners and vote.

COURTESY OF CONGRESSMAN DANA ROHRABACHER

In the 45th, it's looks to be incumbent Mimi Walters squaring off against Katy Porter. In District 39, it's Young Kim vs. Gil Cisneros. In District 46, Lou Correa (our rare Democratic incumbent) will face Russell Lambert. And in the closely watched race for the District 48 seat, Dana Rohrabacher will likely face moderate Dem Harley Rouda, though his 73-vote lead over Hans Keirstead may evaporate. In either event, Rohrabacher's 30 percent of the vote compared to Rouda and Kierstead's 17 percent each wasn't especially cheering.

I'm still rooting for Keirstead. He's a neuroscientist, meaning he might actually notice a difference if Trump ever has a grand mal seizure during the State of the Union Address.

At least Dana had to campaign this year. He has never really had significant opposition before, though he keeps his campaign manager employed full-time even in non-election years. (Since his manager is his wife, it's a magical way to transform political donations into household income!) He has claimed such vigilance is necessary in case some well-funded, wealthy Democrat—as he'll now be facing—ever ran against his 30-year career of doing jack-shit and refusing to meet with his constituents.

In recent years, he has seemed more engaged in championing Vladimir Putin's interests. His Russophilia is an odd thing, given how tight he once was with the Mujahideem, the extremists/future terrorists organized, trained and funded by the Reagan administration to fight the Russians in Afghanistan. Consistency is not necessarily Rohrabacher's strong point, considering he first ran for Congress touting term limits and has now been superglued to his seat for three decades.

Maybe we deserve him. It is a shame how few Americans vote, especially when the world is watching as our president teeters on the brink of nuclear war; trashes our treaties and alliances with our allies while embracing thugs and despots; lies virtually every time he opens his mouth, and, in the midst of volcanoes, hurricanes and global chaos, seems as monomaniacally obsessed with the Russia investigation as Rocco is with his summer sausage.

Trump wasn't on the ballot, but the fragile future of our nation was. He is the anti-Christ—not in the Revelations sense, but in the sense of being utterly unChristlike, with his every impulse running counter to compassion, love and morality. He's gotta go, and we need people in office who will help get him gone.

Given what's at stake, it's distressing how many of our fellow citizens act as if they're not stakeholders. Friends complained to me of hearing crickets at their polling places, where they were the only person voting. That is not what democracy sounds like.

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